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Church donates $1M to Red Cross. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Power emergency on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the electric power problem on Rota, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has declared an emergency situation for the island in order to establish a reserve power capacity.

After the board of directors discussed the power problem on Rota and upon receiving legal guidance from CUC legal counsel James Sirok, vice chair Weston Deleon Guerrero moved for the emergency declaration.

CUC board chair Miranda Villagomez Manglona approved the motion. Other board members—treasurer Matthew Holley, secretary Jovita Paulino, and acting Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Benjamin Petersburg—

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho gestures as he explains to CUC board directors their need for guidance to resolve Rota's power situation problem during a board meeting last Friday.

Tin artist to offer paint therapy

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A woman, who transformed corrugated tin roofing to art immediately after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu over three months ago, will be offering art sessions as a means of therapy to those still struggling with the current reality Saipan faces.

San Vicente Elementary School librarian Mina Benavente has become known for her perspective of the island's situation following Yutu and the art she created to speak for it.

Benavente, through the help of the Marianas Young Professionals,

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Mina Benavente, second from the left, poses for a photo with Marianas Young Professionals representatives after she is awarded the "Hope is Here to Stay" award last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

USCIS: We take non-compliance seriously

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said the decision by U.S. Department of Homeland Security to remove the Philippines from the H-2B visa program is their way of reminding the countries and its beneficiaries what they are authorized to do if ever one fails to comply with U.S. immigration laws.

USCIS has removed the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Ethiopia from the said visa worker program due to the potential for abuse, overstay rates, fraud, human trafficking concerns, and other forms of non-compliance. The DHS' ban took effect on Jan. 19, 2019 and ends on Jan. 18, 2020.

Their decision was made a few weeks after they also ended the categorical CNMI parole program last December.

USCIS spokesperson Michael Bars, in a statement sent by USCIS public affairs officer Claire K. Nicholson to *Saipan Tribune*, said their decision posted on the Federal Register wants to make it clear that USCIS wants everyone to follow im-

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The Northern Marianas Humanities Council recognized five individuals who continue to work in preserving the culture and values of the Commonwealth.

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Muslims in the southern Philippines overwhelmingly approved in a referendum the creation of a new autonomous region.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Mendiola-Long selected as BOE Tinian representative

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By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Governor's Office over the weekend confirmed that it successfully selected a Tinian representative for the 16th CNMI Board of Education.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres selected Tinian's Philip Mendiola-Long to fill the final seat of the 16th BOE after former Tinian representative Florine Hofschneider decided not to seek reelection during the 2018 elections.

"I appointed Mendiola-Long [to the BOE as Tinian representative]," he said in an interview. Torres further noted that Mendiola-Long's appointment did not need the blessing of the Senate, citing consultations from both Attorney General Edward Manibusan and the BOE.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Mendiola-Long's swearing-in ceremony would be conducted tomorrow at the BOE conference of building 1241 on Capitol Hill. The 16th BOE chairwoman is currently Janice Tenorio.

Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that she decided not to seek reelection for the 16th BOE due to personal reasons.

"I was hoping that other parents will come in and throw their names in the ring because they have children in schools and it is very important for them to participate, but it didn't happen," she previously told *Saipan Tribune*.

"My reason [for not seeking re-election] is personal. [I have a] family that I need to take care of," she added. "It's just a part of our lives where some priorities shift and I really have confidence that people in the community will step up, but it is unfortunate that it did not happen."

TBMF from Feb. 28 to March 9

Calling all musicians from Guam, the Marianas, and beyond.

It's the time of year for the largest music event in the region—the 2019 Tumon Bay Music Festival. It will be held from Feb. 28 to March 9, 2019 at various locations throughout Guam.

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- Winds & Strings Festival – March 4 & 5
- Finale concert & award ceremony – March 9

This event is open to musicians and music groups of all ages and experience levels. The festival will also include seminars, workshops, school visits and will feature over 80 performances.

Apply online at tbmfguam.org. ***(PR)***

OAG agrees to remove reckless driving citation vs Banes

The Office of the Attorney General has agreed to remove the reckless driving offense in a traffic citation issued against lawyer David George Banes and instead cited him only with an offense payable with a $35 fine, including a $10 court costs.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. and Banes filed last week before the Superior Court a stipulated motion to amend the citation and permit payment of a payable offense.

The amended citation charged Banes only with driving on right side exceptions.

Glass said the basis for the request to amend citation is that the Commonwealth has reviewed the facts and circumstances and has a good faith belief that the charge is appropriately amended to the case now pending before the court.

Glass and Banes stipulate that $25 shall be assessed as fine and $10 as court costs.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the parties' request to amend the citation and gave Banes 30 days to pay the $35.

Saipan Tribune learned that Banes immediately paid the amount and the case was closed.

Banes, 55, was cited by a police officer for reckless driving along Dandan Road. He appeared before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last Oct. 4.

Banes waived reading of the charge and pleaded not guilty.

Reckless driving is a misdemeanor punishable by fine of $1,000, six months imprisonment, or both.

It was Police Officer L. Lizama who issued the citation last Sept. 3. Banes was allegedly recklessly driving a red Toyota vehicle with license plate ACV 373 on Dandan Road at about 4:30pm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Church donates $1M to Red Cross

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Church leaders and officials from the government and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter meet with the media to discuss typhoon relief efforts on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019. From left, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Saipan Ward bishop Valrick Welch, Barrigada Guam Stake Presidency Diego Sablan, and Asia North Area Presidency and elder Kazuhiko Yamashita.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross last week received $1 million for their operations, according to an executive of the local chapter of the humanitarian organization.

ARC-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh over the weekend told *Saipan Tribune* that the main organization received a $1-million donation from the Church of Latter Day Saints main branch in Salt Lake City, Utah in recovery efforts for the CNMI after Super Typhoon Yutu ravaged Saipan and Tinian in late October 2018.

"Our national fundraising team was reaching out throughout the U.S. mainland [seeking donations for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts]," he said.

Hirsh noted that the main branch of the church donated to the main office of the American Red Cross. He further noted that it was "unexpected" how the LDS church donated the $1 million but he remained grateful to the organization.

"Historically, [the LDS church] are not out providing donations to other non-profit organizations, normally," Hirsh said.

"…That [donation] has enabled us here on the ground to continue our work and to provide all the assistance that we have been giving," he said, recognizing the different path of donation as is customary to the ARC-NMI Chapter.

LDS has churches in Guam, Japan, and Saipan, to name a few, along with missionaries all throughout Micronesia. Hirsh noted that last week, one of the leaders of the church on Japan visited Saipan. Guam LDS church leaders followed as well, he further noted.

"This is so huge and so extraordinary," Hirsh said, referring to the donation. He noted that the organization so far has spent about $5 million in Super Typhoon Yutu relief operations through providing food, water, emergency supplies, and even financial support.

"Even though this is a gigantic donation, when you look at…the overall expenses, this [donation] is a major contribution to provide the financial resources we need to be able to do all that work," he said.

According to a statement from the LDS, they provided $10,000 in cash to cover fuel and supplies for volunteers immediately following the storm. In November 2018, $100,000 worth of commodities was sent to the area. In December 2018, $900,000 was spent on relief supplies and the deployment of emergency personnel.

They reported that church leaders met with Red Cross officials on Saipan last Jan. 24, to discuss the use of the donated items to support the residents following the typhoon.

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POWER

From Page 1

also approved.

Manglona in an interview said they have to do that declaration for reserve power in order for Rota CUC to connect with Rota Resort while they are in the process of fixing the power engine at Songsong Power Plant.

Manglona said several of their engines are not working so they went ahead and tried to procure a new engine to avoid rolling blackouts.

"We don't want Rota to be powerless," the chair pointed out.

She said another motion has to be placed where the board members will decide if they approve the rates that Rota Resort will be charging for CUC to temporary connect with them.

"And I hope that we can work with the Rota Resort in trying to come to a comfortable price where we can connect to them," Manglona said.

After the board approved the emergency declaration the directors had a recess then held an executive session as CUC was negotiating with the Rota Resort's price.

"We will try to do that today as soon as we can get the numbers," said Manglona, referring to negotiation for connection with Rota Resort.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) last week wrote a letter to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, requesting to update the Rota Legislative Delegation about the conditions of the island's six generators.

Manglona expressed alarm that of the six generators, the island is only working with only one generator and that recently there was an island-wide power outage that lasted for four hours.

Camacho explained to the board the power situation on Rota and for the need to temporarily connect with Rota Resort while repair on the power engine is ongoing.

CUC has only one power plant on Rota. Two brand-new Cummins engines were procured in 2011, bringing to six engines, including a backup unit.

In an interview, Camacho said as reported by Rota CUC resident director last Jan. 18, there was problem on the Mitsui power engine unit.

Camacho said the problem was not only the engine itself but on the generator side that burned a couple of coils.

Camacho said the Mitsui engine is very old at 35 years old.

He said they sent their folks down there, working and dealing with that particular unit.

The executive director said they sent another group of people—engineers and electricians—to work with the linemen to see what they can do after they get approval from Rota Resort to identify some sort of immediate reserve capacity.

Camacho said Rota Resort will be the most capable.

He said on Rota, there is an issue with their crane at the port and obviously bringing a generator has its issues and dilemma at this particular junction.

"But Rota Resort is obviously there and we are going to try to negotiate now, if the board approves whatever the rate we need to come up with," he said.

Camacho said once that's done and approved by the board, then they can proceed with the making the necessary connection with Rota Resort.

He said it is only a connection with Rota Resort and not necessarily usage.

"You understand that as long as the engine is running and that's fine, we will be using ours as the primary. In times that the engine needs to be maintained and shutdown or maintenance or inspection that's when we will use and avail to Rota Resort," Camacho said.

Camaco disclosed that they do have a brand-new replacement engine but that unit will be ready to provide power five to eight months.

He said Mitsui power engine is under repair but that is anticipated to be ready for another month so they got to deal with the situation now.

Camacho said they want to ensure that they will be providing reliable power reserve capacity.

"That's what the emergency for as a reserve capacity," he pointed out.

He said Rota's peak load is 1.5 to 1.6 megawatts and that CUC is meeting the demand.

He said the current unit that is running now is 2 megawatts.

Camacho said they need a reserve unit so if any unit needs maintenance or any unit needs to be shut down for a variety of reasons, in order to do so, they have the capability and will not affect to the community.

He said the plan is to purchase a unit with 2 megawatts as they don't want to get too large engine.

Camacho said a 2-megawatt engine should be sufficient to add and hopefully be able to have the capacity to encourage any new customers to come in.

Camacho said they're hoping to buy one that's worth between $200,000 and $300,000.

He said they have the funding to purchase one.

"The issue is the most immediate availability. We already have the new unit coming, but I said it's five to eight months. So, we need something now," he said.

He said one engine unit that is coming is two megawatts.

"We are hoping that some sort of connection would be approved and negotiated with the Rota Resort on a cash basis and then we also like to have an independent unit that will be our main secondary reserve capacity," Camacho said.

Camacho said the Mitsui engine is currently under repair.

He said the new engine to be purchased will serve in a secondary reserve capacity.

ERRATUM

In the Jan. 24, 2019 article "'Active shooter' threat forced daycares to lockdown," *Saipan Tribune* mistakenly identified Jessica Reyes as the principal of Northern Marianas International School. Reyes, whose correct first name is Jennifer, is the principal of Golden Harvest International School. NMIS also didn't go on lockdown, as the article wrongly reported, it merely went on alert. Our apologies.

TIN

From Page 1

will be offering art sessions that she hopes to be therapeutic for those still struggling with life post Yutu.

"People are understanding reality again, it's a different reality…not for everyone but for most people and I wanted to introduce to our community a way to de-stress so I will be offering paint sessions. One of the biggest struggles I had personally was understanding how I feel and so if we're given the opportunity to sit down and paint, sometimes you identify different feelings and emotions and that's the point, to let people discover an outlet to feel better about themselves or to feel better about situations…just art therapy, that's exactly what I want it to be," she said.

Benavente will be offering art sessions at local restaurants including Garapan Restaurant, Joe's Bar, J's Bowling, Java Joe's, and at her home.

"Hopefully I will be offering weekly services for $30 a person and there will be services offered once a month for like teens," she said.

Benavente said that materials will be bought through the cash prize that comes with the award that MyPros awarded her called the "Hope is Here to Stay" award.

"This super-generous award from MyPros will be a huge jumpstart to buy materials like paint and plywood and just simple things to continue this message 'let's continue to hope' and sometimes hoping is learning how to de-stress and finding joy in the moment," she said.

Benavente shared that she started her tin paintings after the typhoon when she found two pieces of tin swaying in the wind that was making an awful sound. Instead of thinking about the awful sites that surrounded her and the sound of the unforgiving winds, she decided to paint.

"I was just walking around in my backyard and I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what to feel. I didn't know what I was feeling and there were these two pieces of tin that were stuck together and the winds were blowing against it and then it was just making this really bad sound when I heard it. It was making me super nauseous and then as I stared at it, I begged my husband to bring it down and I stared at it and I thought 'we need to change our perspective.' It is a disaster but how do we switch this around and so I decided to paint on it. So, I painted my first one and I felt good about it so I put it on social media. Then I was getting like[s] and [comments] saying 'you gave me hope' so 'we love it' so I [decided] to do one more" she said.

Since the typhoon, Benvente has made more than 100 tin paintings. There are about 50 that remain on island and 50 that have followed federal agents back home. "they were all bartered with, I did not receive any money but I did ask for paint brushes and paint and things like that," Benavente said.

MyPros executive director G Van Gils shared that Benavente's paintings brought hope to him and his team following the storm and that's why they decided not only to award her, but to aid in her plans to educate the community about paint therapy.

"Nine days after Typhoon Yutu, I was driving and it was awful. Everywhere I looked, my friends were suffering and I started to cry, pulled over my car, and had a break down and through my windshield, I saw a piece of tin that Mina had painted. It gave me hope. It let me know that I'm not alone in this storm, I'm not alone in this recovery, we will get through this as a community. We noticed that Mina was painting on tin after the storm…basically we feel like now, since MyPros moves into resilience and out of recovery, we want to pay attention to people's emotional needs…. this has been a very difficult time" he said.

One of Benavente's art pieces will be displayed in the MyPros Innovation Center that is scheduled to open in June.

USCIS

From Page 1

migration laws.

"In order for individuals from a particular country to remain eligible for H-2A and H-2B programs, both the country and its beneficiaries working in the U.S. must demonstrate a continued commitment to upholding the integrity of our immigration system, fidelity to our laws, and fundamental respect for human rights and public safety," said Bars.

"That is why [DHS]takes concerns involving fraud, abuse, denial rates, overstay rates, human trafficking, and other forms of non-compliance seriously. Importantly, the notice makes clear that DHS maintains its authority to add or remove any country at any time if the country fails to meet the requirements for continued designation."

Nicholson added that the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa classification also provided by USCIS also has limitations. "In addition to the strict limitations on construction worker eligibility for the CW-1 program provided by the recent legislation, temporary or seasonal employment positions of any kind for which H-2B workers have been or could be available (from any other country) are not eligible for the CW program."

The Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, signed by President Donald Trump last year that extended the CW-1 program up to 2029, has a numerical cap with 13,000 for the current fiscal year. The cap would be slashed by 500 for FY 2020 that begins on Oct. 1 and three more times up to FY 2023. FYs 2024 to 2029 will have a reduction of 1,000 each and by 2030 the numerical cap must only be 1,000.

The H-2A visa are used by foreign nationals to be allowed entry for temporary or seasonal agricultural jobs, while the H-2B is for non-agricultural related work. H-2B visas are used by the CNMI and Guam to hire foreign labor in the construction sector, where both U.S island territories enjoy a no numerical limit on the number of approvals.

Filipinos who are H-2B visa holders, according to DHS, showed a 40-percent rate of going beyond their authorized period of stay for FY 2017 while another 60 percent were determined to have been trafficked to the U.S. using the same visa.

She added that the recent federal government shutdown had little effect on USCIS' operations when it comes to processing CNMI-related immigration documents except only for the temporary suspension of the e-Verify program. The shutdown ended Friday after White House and Congressional leaders agreed for a temporary spending bill.

Kilili's take

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said both decisions of ending the CNMI parole program and removing the Philippines from the H-2B visa category would cause labor problems in the Commonwealth. "Unfortunately, the Trump administration does have the authority to decide which countries are eligible for H-2B worker visas."

"Cutting off the Philippines from H-2B is certainly a decision that hurts the Marianas. But, just as with the decision to end humanitarian parole at the end of 2018, the Trump administration does not seem to put much importance in what happens in the Marianas."

He also asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to use his connections with the White House to help the CNMI's predicament. "I would respectfully ask the governor, who was an early supporter of Mr. Trump and says they are friends, to use his influence to get this decision reversed."

Sablan added that he would use his senior majority member status in the House Natural Resources Committee to call for a hearing to discuss immigration issues like the two decisions made under the Trump administration.

"This ill-timed decision comes when reconstruction from the typhoons is underway and our need for temporary workers is high. I am also concerned about a pending decision to end parole for Chinese and Russian tourists to the Marianas. Commonwealth officials have said the Trump administration would never end tourist parole," said Sablan.

"The hearing will be an opportunity to ask that question and find out for sure. The tentative date for the hearing is Feb. 27. To make the hearing meaningful, I will want to have witnesses from the Trump administration there to explain their decisions and their views on the legislation I have already introduced to reverse these actions."

2019 SHRM officers inducted

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Society for Human Resources Management NMI Chapter inducted its 2019 board of directors last Friday at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio. The officers will govern the organization in continuing to promote high-performance workplaces and develop human resources management in the CNMI.

The eight-man team is headed by president Catherine Cachero, vice president Pina Deleon Guerrero, secretary Shirley Dotts, treasurer Denise Montenegro, and board members Frank Ada, Vanessa Deleon Guerrero, and Penelope Jones. The officers' oath-taking was officiated by CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Cachero who has been an active member of SHRM and served as board secretary last year. "We really got a great board this year and we do have others who stepped up who weren't elected and we are tapping them in and to try to get them involved. I'm really excited and enthusiastic because we have board members from last year that have continued to stayed on," she said.

"We also welcome others to get involved whether in committees and other capacities. We are already setting up our agenda including topics of importance in every employers mind in the CNMI such as labor and immigration," she added.

Cachero said that top of the SHRM membership's list of priorities is getting clarifications from the government about the new law on marijuana in the CNMI. "Aside from labor and immigration, we also like to address other questions like the legalization of marijuana and what kinds of procedures employers and businesses can do that can affect the employer-employee relationship with this new law."

BEA CABRERA
The 2019 Society for Human Resources Management NMI Chapter board of directors was inducted last Friday at Charley's Cabaret in the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"There is still a lot of conflict between federal law and local and we see a lot of states that are legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational use… If someone comes to work intoxicated what can employers do that is within the confines of the law?" she added.

Cachero is aware that there are no specific government regulations yet, but SHRM is looking forward to working with the commission that will set out rules in relation to the legal use of marijuana in the CNMI. "We don't have the regulations yet so I can't speak as to what implications in totality it has on the employment relationship and ultimately in the workplace and business," she said.

"We would like to partner with as many agencies on island including that commission that will regulate marijuana use, but also CNMI Labor and other agencies that do touch on issues relevant to human resources and employer-employee relationship," she added.

EEMC completes 7 CUC task orders, makes $2M savings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gilbane Federal, the federal court-appointed Engineering and Environmental Management Company which is tasked to oversee some of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s stalled projects, has now completed seven task orders and made over $2 million in savings for CUC.

Gilbane Federal/EEMC principal Daryl Greenway disclosed that they have achieved significant cost savings on multiple task orders, in comparison to budgets and grant-approved amounts.

In EEMC's annual report for 2018 filed before the federal court, Greenway said Gilbane Federal has now completed seven task orders at or significantly under budget, resulting in an overall savings in excess of $2 million.

He said these savings will become available for funding other Stipulated Order No. 2 projects.

SO 2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

These savings, Greenway said, have been achieved with the "excellent assistance and cooperation" of CUC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the timely addition of funding from the court registry of the U.S. District Court for the NMI that avoided a loss of project momentum between the annual grant funding cycles.

The seven completed task orders were the facility drainage, Tank 103 inspection, Tank 103 materials, Rota containment, Rota facility drainage, Tank 103 repairs, and smart pigging.

The U.S. government recommends the extension for one additional year the term of Gilbane Federal as EEMC.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien said the court's order specifically authorizes extending the EEMC's term and therefore, its term should be extended approximately one year until Feb. 15, 2021.

In the U.S. government's January status report about CUC stipulated order projects, O'Brien said the U.S. and CNMI governments and CUC continue to make substantial progress in SO2 but additional time is needed to efficiently complete the projects using the EEMC funds to the extent possible.

In December 2014, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter selected Gilbane Federal, a California-based full-service construction company with 64 offices worldwide, as an EEMC which will have the power to expeditiously complete some CUC stalled projects.

In CUC's January status report, CUC legal counsel James Sirok said that on SO2 projects, he was informed that projects under the outstanding task orders are moving along on a timely basis without any major problems.

Sirok said the parties agree that the remaining and expected EEMC account funds are being utilized efficiently.

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Kilili: Share your typhoon survivor stories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As U.S. Congress examines the federal response to recent disasters in the Marianas, and across the nation, and how recovery efforts can be improved in the future, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is asking everyone who experienced Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut to share their first-hand accounts of survival and the help they received—or did not receive—in the aftermath of these storms.

"I want to gather and share stories from the people I represent to paint a more complete, and human, picture of the devastation we survived. And I want people to have a place to report whether they are getting the help they need to rebuild their lives," Sablan explained.

"That is really the goal of this project: to show the human beings behind the numbers, and through these stories identify ways that the federal response can be made better for future disasters."

Personal stories (in any length) may be submitted, along with photographs or videos, to typhoonstories@mail.house.gov. Survivors need not disclose their names, and confidentiality will be maintained for all submissions.

For more information, contact Randy Johnson at the congressional office at 670.323.2647, or email typhoonstories@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

Charcoal manufacturer pleads guilty to fraud and misuse of a visa

The president and part-owner of a company that manufactures charcoal on Saipan, entered a guilty plea last Wednesday in connection with the allegations that he and his business partner had engaged in fraud in the applications for CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program permits.

Mizanur Khan, president and part owner of K.C.A. Corp., signed a plea deal with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to count two of the indictment charging him with fraud and misuse of a visa.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Khan's guilty plea and set the sentencing for June 21, 2019.

Manglona allowed Khan to remain on release under the same terms and conditions because it was reported by the U.S. Probation Office that he has been compliant.

Visa fraud carries a maximum penalty of not more than 10 years of imprisonment and a fine not to exceed $250,000.

In exchange for Khan's guilty plea, the U.S. government agrees to recommend a sentence of five months and to dismiss the remaining count of the indictment upon sentencing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government. Colin Thompson is court-appointed counsel for Khan.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, in May 2015 and continuing until Nov. 4, 2015 in the District of the NMI and in the Republic of Bangladesh, Khan and unindicted co-conspirators Muksedor Rahman and Karim Dhali told Monir Hossain that in exchange for a fee payable to Muksedor Rahman, he could obtain a work visa in the U.S.

Khan and unindicted co-conspirators Muksedor Rahman and Karim Dhali told Monir Hossain that Khan's company, K.C.A. Corp. would employ him as a "charcoal maker" for at least one year, at a wage of $6.05 per hour, for at least 40 hours per week.

On June 6, 2015, Khan sent via the U.S. Postal Service, a I-129CW petition on behalf of Monir Hossain to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services California Service in California.

As part of the application package, Khan included a contract of employment for Monir Hossain specifying that he would work for K.C.A. Corp. as an "operation service worker (charcoal processor)", for a period of one year, for at least 40 hours per week, at $6.05 per hour.

Khan, certified, under penalty of perjury, that all the information contained in the petitions was true and accurate.

At the time he submitted the I-129CW petitions on behalf of the beneficiary, Khan was not able and did not intend to provide Monir Hossain with a job as described in the contract.

The USCIS, based in part on the false contract, and false attestations of Khan, issued CW-1 worker status for Monir Hossain.

On Aug. 5, 2015, Khan obtained a CW-1 permit on behalf of Monir Hossain knowing it had been unlawfully obtained and procured by means of a false statement and fraud.

Last September, Khan's co-defendant, Kosuke Tomokiyo, pleaded guilty to count 4 of the indictment charging him with fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Tomokiyo has yet to be sentenced.

According to court documents, Tomokiyo is vice president and part owner of K.C.A. Corp.

On Aug. 22, 2016, Khan and Tomokiyo allegedly falsely represented to USCIS that Tomokiyo had previously been and was to be employed by K.C.A. as a "sales manager," and that Tomokiyo had been employed in that capacity since January 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Over $6K donated to PSS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Guam and Rota community donated over $6,000 to the CNMI Public School System through a school supply drive.

The Rota Department of Public Safety and the Guam Retired Firefighter Association both made donations of $3,000 to the CNMI Fire and Emergency Medical Services Association's School Supply Drive.

According to Derek Gersonde, CNMI Fire and Emergency Medical Services Association vice president, the money was converted into gift certificates redeemable at the National Office Supply and were given to PSS to decide how to disperse them.

"We got a donation from the Department of Public Safety Rota of over $3,000 as well as donation from the Guam firefighters over $3,000 and we converted those into gift certificates that we will be giving to PSS to distribute to the students," he said.

The gift certificates were handed to members of the PSS board last Wednesday at the Kagman shelter.

The association also teamed up with the Lady Diann Torres Foundation to donate over 30 bags of school supplies to the Kagman shelter students.

Gersonde said that the partnership between the association and the foundation has proven to be successful before that's why they decided to band together again to help the children who remain at the shelter three months post Yutu.

"The more the merrier. She's been doing great work. This is not the first time we partnered with her. We did the Ayuda Luta as well," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Representatives of the Public School System pose for a photo following the donation of National Office Supply gift certificates from the CNMI Fire and Emergency Medical Services association and the Lady Diann Torres foundation.

Multi-cultural performances at Lunar New Year Party

A variety of cultural performances have been lined up for Lunar New Year Party in The Marianas on Feb. 5, 2019, at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan, Saipan.

The evening will kick off at 6pm with a traditional Lion Dance and classical dancing by the Chinese Association of Saipan. The opening act will be followed by a martial arts Taekwondo demonstration by the Korean Community of Saipan at 6:30pm, Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club at 7:30pm, Laulau Homebrew at 8pm, modern dance troupe Studio 29:11 at 8:30pm, and local musician James Selepeo at 9:15pm.

The event will also include the sale of traditional Chinese and Korean new year dishes, as well as Japanese and local food.

"Lunar New Year is one of the busiest visitor seasons for The Marianas, and we are looking forward to presenting this evening of entertainment and food for both our visitors and our local community," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We welcome everyone to come and join in this celebration."

The pedestrian mall will be decorated with traditional Korea and Chinese lamps. The event is co-organized by the Chinese Association, the Korean Community of Saipan, and the MVA.

For more information, contact the MVA Community Projects Division at communityprojects@mymarianas.com or call 1.670.664.3200/1. ***(PR)***

Cultural preservation efforts in action

DEDEDO, Guam—An archaeological monitor working at the future site of Marine Corps Base Guam encountered a relatively dense scatter of prehistoric and late 19th century artifacts consisting of volcanic rock tools and pottery fragments, during construction work on Jan. 21, 2019 (Federal holiday).

Immediately upon discovery, all work was halted at the site, and the area was appropriately cordoned off.

A Marine Corps Activity Guam archaeologist visited the site on Jan.22, 2019 and concurred with the contract archaeologist that the material observed suggests that this was a resource processing area. Archaeological investigations will be completed before construction can resume in the area.

"The response to the discovery is an ongoing process of meeting requirements under the 2011 Programmatic Agreement (PA)," said Ronnie Rogers, an archaeologist with MCAG. "Our monitor at the site is to be commended for his vigilance. The discovery was quickly marked off with a barrier and work in the historic site is paused until we complete consultations with the SHPO and ACHP. The information we gain from the proposed archaeological study will add to our knowledge of Guam's history."

MCAG has notified the Guam State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the discovery and have solicited agency comments on its proposed mitigation action.

The Department of the Navy respects the rich cultural heritage of Guam and remains committed to the cultural and historical preservation of the island. ***(PR)***

Deleon Guerrero hopes Legislature maintains compromise

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero wants to be remembered as one of the lawmakers in the Legislature that promoted compromise and cooperation between his fellow members that have different political ideologies and belong to opposing parties.

Deleon Guerrero spent 17 years in the House, serving from the 13th to 20th legislatures. He was the House speaker in the 18th, became vice speaker in the 19th, and appointed as the first House Gaming Committee chair when the panel was created in the 20th for any legislation for the new casino gaming industry.

He was also the author of Public Law 20-66 or the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018 that authorize the legal use, regulation, and control of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

He is hoping that the impeachment of former governor Benigno R. Fitial when he was the speaker of the 18th Legislature would not be his lone legacy in the CNMI. "I'm proud to say that I learned a lot that made me more effective as a representative since I was first elected. I'd like to think that I also helped contribute to the CNMI."

"I've never shied away from making hard decisions; that is one of my proudest moments. I never run away from a vote because it is unpopular. We're elected to make the hard decisions and I think that I've done that. I'm proud of that."

He said that previous legislatures have been filled with political infighting and partisan politics. "I can scream and shout all I want but really the way to make a difference is to go in and be the change from within. I think that I can agree that a difference has been made. Now, partisan politics is not as extreme like in the past."

"Working together. [I think] that's one of the things that I left behind. They [members] learned to work together. It is not always harmonious but at least respectful. Whoever comes in after that, learns that, I think that we have made promise of good things to come from our elected officials."

Deleon Guerrero added that disagreements would often come up in the Legislature, but reminded the current members to remain professional like what he had done as speaker. "The legacy I hope that I left or imparted is to promote cooperation, compromise, and respect. Even across the aisle, respect among members must be followed."

"If there's respect among the members, agree to disagree has become a more common term. In the past, disagreements often leave bad sentiments. I think, the legislators now are more professional. I hope they take that with them with the new members. Learn that they can disagree but not make it personal."

He then challenged the members of the 21st to make the decisions that would benefit the people, even though it may be unpopular. "They [21st Legislature] really need to work together. Everybody has the same goal, that is to help our people."

"I hope that they are courageous enough to make the hard decisions. That's why the people put them there. Now, as a member of the public, I will stand with the people to hold them accountable with their decisions."

He said that losing his senatorial bid was his final foray into politics. "My career as an elected official in the Legislature, I think that chapter is now officially closed. I will not be running again. I think I already put in my time and I have given back."

Deleon Guerrero ran for one of the two senatorial seats on Saipan and the Northern Islands, but came in third behind independent Vinnie Sablan and re-electionist Sen. Justo S. Quitugua.

He is now exploring all of his options, even thinking of a possible Cabinet appointment on the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "What's next is interesting. I'm looking at retirement or see if the current administration may need me to serve in any capacity. There are many options. I still want to help in whatever way that I can."

Deleon Guerrero then thanked the people of Precinct 3 for their trust and allowing him to serve for 17 years. "I'm just glad and thankful that my message to the people, especially the people of Precinct 1. I am so indebted to them for allowing me to be elected this long. I also think that I need to re-prioritize my life. My health and family are my priorities right now."

Mount Carmel School's 2nd quarter President's List

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

Several seniors were inadvertently excluded from the published President's List for the 2nd Quarter. The following is the correct and complete listing.

Aldwin Ray Batusin
Amanda Pangelinan
Angela Jun
Angelo Gabriel Manese
Anniea Saturno
Danishelle Faye Javillonar
Dayna Lou Macaranas
Eric Kiser
Erika Gabrielle Cunanan
Giselle Ivy Leong
Hyo Lim Cho
Jan Emmanuel Bobadilla
Joanie Paraiso
Justin Gerald Ocampo
Karen Sato
Louisa Sa Han
Maria Lael Terlaje
Matt Jason Moran
Maverick Deniel Irang
Minju Kang
Quincy Lenn Mikaila Chinen
Reica Jucel Ramirez
Rosa Castro
Rosalia Francine Pangelinan
Seo Yeon Lee
Seung Bin Bae
Suhwan Bae
Ydylle Faye Acosta ***(PR)***

USCIS resumes premium processing today

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Servives will resume premium processing on Monday, Jan. 28, for all fiscal year (FY) 2019 H-1B cap petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption (the "master's cap"). Petitioners who have received requests for evidence (RFEs) for pending FY 2019 cap petitions should include their RFE response with any request for premium processing they may submit.

H-1B visas provide employers with skilled workers for a wide range of specialty occupations. When a petitioner requests the agency's premium processing service, USCIS guarantees a 15-day processing time. If we do not take certain adjudicative action within the 15-calendar day processing time, USCIS refunds the petitioner's premium processing service fee and continues with expedited processing of the petition. This service is only available for pending petitions, not new submissions, because we have already received enough petitions to meet the FY 2019 cap.

The previously announced temporary suspension of premium processing remains in effect for all other categories of H-1B petitions to which it applied. We plan to resume premium processing for the remaining categories of H-1B petitions as agency workloads permit.

USCIS will continue to notify the public via uscis.gov when we begin accepting premium processing for other categories of H-1B petitions. ***(PR)***

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PIC GIFT SHOP - SALES ASSOCIATE

This position is responsible for providing customers with a positive and memorable shopping experience by providing excellent customer service. Applicants must have a minimum of one year of retail sales experience.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, February 8th, 2019. Applications and resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial DriveCommercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

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Humanities Council honors cultural heroes

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council recognized five individuals who continue to work in preserving the culture and values of the Commonwealth, in last Thursdauy's 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres helped in handing out the awards along with NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan, board chair Polly Masga, and member Frankie Eliptico.

CNMI historian Don Farrell (Research and Publication in the Humanities), Gordon Marciano (Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices), Galvin Deleon Guerrero (Preservation of CNMI History), Victor Cabrera (Outstanding Humanities Teacher, classroom setting), and Cecilio Raiukiulipiy (OHT, non-classroom setting) were the recipients of the said awards.

The NMHC also recognized former executive director Scott Russell with the Lifetime Achievement Award in the Humanities and former board member, from May 2012 to May 2018, Mike White a special commendation for his contribution in advancing the humanities in the Commonwealth. Motherread/Fatherread Literacy Program coordinator Beth Demapan honored their former head Viola S. Deleon Guerrero for her years of service.

Saipan Southern High School senior Jeremiah Fernandez also delivered his winning piece in the 15th Annual Sengebau Poetry Awards titled *Listen CNMI* while Dandan Middle School seventh grader Oceana Teigita, who was a Team CNMI member in last year's National Junior Speech and Debate Association national finals, recited the written piece of Velentine Sengebau *"Searching."*

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth left, joins the awardees and Northern Marianas Humanities Council officials for a group photo.From left, NMHC board member Frankie Eliptico, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Victor Cabrera, Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Gordon Marciano, Don Farrell, NMHC executive Leo Pangelinan, and NMHC chair Polly DLG Masga.

Farrell, a longtime educator, was recognized documenting the history of the CNMI and has recently published two books about the Commonwealth—*Tinian and the Bomb, and Modern History of the Northern Mariana Islands*—that could be used by future generations.

He said that he has spent a lot in working with the two books and the result of which is his labor of love. "I'm passionate on what I've been doing in the last 40 years now. And, as I've said before, I enjoy it very much.

Farrell then challenged the youth to someday begin writing the Carolinian side of the

See HUMANITIES on Next Page

JON PEREZ

CNMI historian Don Farrell, left, receives the Research and Publication in the Humanities award from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in Thursday's 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, hands over the Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in a classroom setting) award to Hopwood Middle School teacher Victor Cabrera.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 28, 2000

Power plant probe pressed

Insisting there are still questions hovering over the controversial Saipan power project, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero yesterday pressed the investigation he sought into charges of bribery leveled against Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez. He gave credence to the reported affidavit last year from Alice Fleming Villagomez, who is divorced from the CUC official, that cited instances where the alleged bribery occurred. Mr. Villagomez has called the allegations "lies" as he noted that an investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Office cleared him of any wrongdoing in connection with the procurement of the new power plant on Saipan.

Teno clears way for $50-M CIP projects

About $50.8 million will be spent by the government to undertake various capital improvement projects on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota in what officials hope will help spur economic activities amid continuous downturn of the local tourism industry. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has finally approved a measure appropriating the $30 million loan secured by the government from Bank of Guam under the interim financing scheme prior to floating municipal bonds worth $60 million. From this amount, $20.8 million will be set aside to match federal construction grants provided under the Covenant 702/CIP financial assistance, for a total of $41.6 million in available funds that will be used to build the new prison, utilities, roads and other public structures. The rest of the money amounting to $9.2 million will be allocated to ongoing projects which have yet to be completed due to funding shortfall, according to the bill offered by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider.

January 28, 2005

'House leaders still want cordial relations with minority'

The House leadership hopes that last Thursday's boycott by the minority bloc would in no way be a signal of an end to the two camp's relatively harmonious relationship. House leadership spokesman Charles P. Reyes Jr., said he is aware that 2005 is an election year but he said, "We still want to maintain a cordial and friendly and civilized interaction and relationship." No members of the opposition in the House of Representatives showed up in Thursday's scheduled regular session. Acting minority leader Ray Tebuteb said that he had asked the leadership to postpone the session due to the absence of other members, most of them belonging to the minority bloc.

Saipan gets new 'retroreflective' road signs

In case you are wondering why almost all road signs on Saipan have turned from bright orange to fluorescent yellow, it's all part of the 120-day road signs makeover being implemented by the Department of Public Works. The road signs are now called retroreflective road signs, according to DPW's Traffic, Highway, Maintenance and Beautification special project coordinator Frank C. Sablan. The visual information provided by the new road signs give motorists basic yet important instructions about the road ahead when selecting which road to take, safe intersections, warnings of physical obstructions, and advice of a safe path to travel.

January 28, 2006

NMC library goes increasingly hi-tech

The Northern Marianas College Library is now one of the most "high-tech" libraries in the Pacific, according to the facility's director Laura Kaspari Hohmann. "Although college students have always gone to the library for a quiet place to study or to check out books, they are now just as likely to borrow a laptop and hop online," said Hohmann. She said the Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at NMC has become increasingly technology-focused in order to serve students better. Part of the improvement of the library is the new online catalog system, called "Horizon Online Catalog System," which is the latest trend in library cataloguing technology. The new system, said Hohmann, allows students to search the catalog from any computer on island that has an Internet connection.

Inhalable insulin OK'd

Here's a piece of good news for the CNMI's sizeable diabetic population.

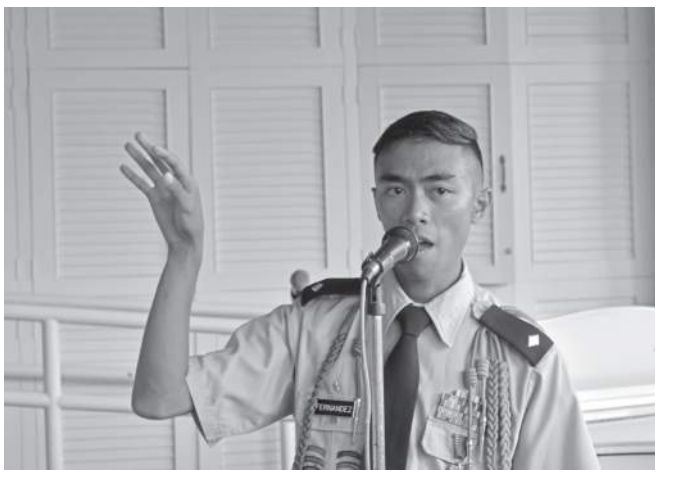
The first inhalable version of insulin won federal approval Friday, giving millions of adult diabetics an alternative to some of the injections they now endure. The Food and Drug Administration said the Pfizer Inc. insulin, to be marketed as "Exubera," is the first new way of delivering insulin since the discovery of the hormone in the 1920s. Pfizer jointly developed the drug and dispenser with Sanofi-Aventis and Nektar Therapeutics. It should be available to patients by midyear, Pfizer said. Use of rapid-acting inhaled insulin will not replace the need to inject the hormone occasionally, according to the FDA. And diabetics will have to continue pricking their fingers to test blood sugar levels.

JON PEREZ

Cecilio Raiukiulipiy is the recipient of the Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in a non-classroom setting).

JON PEREZ

Gordon Marciano delivers a short message of appreciation after receiving the honor for Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices.



JON PEREZ

Saipan Southern High School student Jeremiah Fernandez delivers his winning piece in the senior division of the Vanentine Sengebau Poetry Competition.

HUMANITIES

From Page 8

CNMI's history. "There is one shortage, in the record of the history of the Marianas, and it would certainly help future historians do a better job of writing the history of the Marianas.

"Particularly the history of Saipan, that would be for some courageous young Carolinian to write the Carolinian history of Saipan. I hope someone would step forward with that challenge."

Deleon Guerrero has combined his love for education and films with one of the results is the Mount Carmel School production of *We Drank Our Tears: Rafael Mafnas's Story*. The movie won the Best of Festival award in the 8th Annual Guam International Film Festival.

He thanked Torres for being there to hand out the awards, which showed his strong support for the Humanities. "Your presence makes [the awards ceremony] more special. It speaks volumes for your support for the Humanities."

Deleon Guerrero also thanked NMHC and the other people that supported their film project, including when it was written into a book 15 years ago and up to when they presented it to a motion picture that also involved MCS students Rafael Mafnas, Justin Ocampo, and Angelo Manese.

He also thanked Benjamin Abadilla, Francisco Babauta, Rafael Mafnas, and all World War II survivors in the CNMI whom the stories were based. "As we prepare to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII battles here on Tinian and Saipan, their stories are three of the many stories of survival."

"It is an honor to keep their memories alive and to introduce it to a new generation of people who are, like you said governor, we need to remember our past."

Cabrera, a Hopwood Middle School teacher, has been using a non-traditional method of having his students learn about gardening and raising animals as part of sustainability in our community. He has a business background and a 14-year teaching experience in the local Public School System.

"I'm hoping that though my unconventional methods, we can bring back the whole gardening idea. A lot of us here grew up in farms, it is not necessary a big one. But gardening, we were able to have additional subsistence to our homes as we eat the work that we put in. I'm hoping that the upcoming generations we hope to bring that back part of our culture."

Raiukiulipiy has been sailing for over 35 years learning the traditional method under the guidance of master navigator Mau Piailug in Satawal in Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia. His traditional voyaging methods have brought him to Hawaii, the CNMI, Japan, Australia, Guam, and the Philippines.

"Our skills and knowledge from our ancestors are very important and we need to pass it on to our community, especially the children. We needed to present all these skills, the skills that our ancestors have been using that are still needed today. These skills are very important," said Raiukiulipiy.

JON PEREZ

Dandan Middle School student Oceania Teigita is the junior division winner in the Vanentine Sengebau Poetry Competition.

JON PEREZ

Motherread Fatherread program coordinator Viola S. Deleon Guerrero gives her thank you message for the recognition of service she received.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: Tuesday, February 05, 2019 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2019-003

Building Maintenance of Housing Units in Rota

Proposal packets will be available on January 04, 2019, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or at the Rota Field Office, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2019, at the NMHC Rota Field Office in Songsong Village.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670)234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

DPL Department of Public Lands

PEGS PACIFIC ENGINEERING GROUP & SERVICES dba SSFM CNMI

Invitation to Open-House for the Department of Public Lands'
Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan Update
Final Stakeholder Input and Comment Solicitation
Date: January 29, 2019
Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm
Location: Department of Public Lands – Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dan Dan Commercial Building

Legislative Bureau
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-19-001
PL-UNGRADED: $1,148.36 B/W
Position: Legislative Assistant
Opening Date: January 17, 2019
Closing Date: February 07, 2019

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee
Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan
General Duties:

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis; and
- Undergo a pre-employment drug test.

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A pathetic moment in American history has passed with nothing to show for it

It is beyond sad that it took the longest shutdown in government history, federal workers heading to food banks, a near meltdown of the nation's air traffic control system and increasing outrage and condemnation from across the nation to end the standoff between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats.

It's sadder still that it all seems to mean so little.

America was over this shutdown long before our political leaders were. Even the stoic and silent FBI joined the chorus crying enough. Its director, Christopher Wray, spoke for many of us when he said enough is enough, with agents not being paid and workers at the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies calling in sick.

The three-week reopening we got Friday is a paltry truce in a pathetic war, but at this pain point, we are ready to accept any national relief.

The details the president outlined in the Rose Garden will get federal workers paid and back on the job. In exchange is a promise that Congress will seriously discuss bipartisan solutions for border security. Nevermind that that was their job in the first place.

The so-called wall between the U.S. and Mexico, now whittled to steel slats at strategic points, exists in the deal only as a plaintive plea from the president.

Federal workers were treated with indifference and as pawns in this Washington game, with neither side acting as a true advocate but each claiming like an insincere stepparent to care so deeply.

We rejoice that these workers will return to paid jobs. In Texas, 6,400 federal employees filed claims for unemployment insurance, according to the Texas Workforce Commission, and more than 600 had begun receiving benefit payments. And there are countless tales of other emotional and financial suffering.

There is nothing to feel good about at the temporary close to this ugly and often childish impasse. The plan announced on Friday is close to the approach that Trump had rejected at the end of December. But we also would caution Democrats against gloating over the president's caving on wall funding, as he appeared ever more willing to offer concessions on security that could have protected vulnerable immigrants.

Trump's speech in Rose Garden was true to form, meandering and failing to measure the moment. He neither gracefully acknowledged his capitulation nor adequately explained why he was taking this step now, with so little to show in return. He continues to be tone deaf to the problems that this government shutdown has caused, threatening to shutter the government again or declare a national emergency if a deal acceptable to him can't be reached in the next three weeks. Both are unacceptable.

Lawmakers and the president must do their jobs and

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Democrats were ripe for division. Then the shutdown came along

By ADAM GREEN
CQ-Roll Call

Adam Green is the co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

By shutting down the government, Donald Trump unintentionally gave Democrats the biggest gift possible: Unity.

It could doom his presidency. Stunningly, it is a repeat of the exact mistake he made by choosing Obamacare repeal as his first legislative fight.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2016 election, a dozen shellshocked progressive groups gathered to predict where the national debate would go — and how we could prepare.

The answer was obvious: Donald Trump would push immediately for an infrastructure package.

It wouldn't be a good package. It would likely entail selling off public roads and bridges to Wall Street and foreign investors. It would mostly be corporate tax giveaways and create very few jobs.

But we feared it could potentially seal Trump's re-election. Some congressional Democrats would settle for crumbs — agreeing quickly to marginal benefit for their districts instead of holding out for something much bigger, impactful and popular.

With the stock market and job growth organically improving after President Barack Obama's presidency, Trump passing even a placebo "jobs package" would allow him to take credit. And this first fight could set a precedent of Democrats dividing amongst themselves, paving the way for more Trump policy victories.

Then came the giant unforced error. Trump's push of Obamacare repeal achieved the remarkable task of unifying all Democrats from Joe Manchin and Elizabeth Warren in the Senate to corporate-aligned New Democrat leader Jim Himes and Progressive Caucus leader Pramila Jayapal in the House. Trump set a precedent by emboldening Democrats to unify against him in future fights.

He just did it again.

As the new Democratic House began, Democrats were ripe for division. Nancy Pelosi's leadership was under siege in her own party, fracturing the Democratic Caucus.

Meanwhile, there were clear divisions among incoming House freshmen. Those who flipped districts "Red to Blue" were starting to organize as their own bloc. Those who advocated Medicare for All in their competitive primaries before winning competitive general elections — such as Katie Hill of California, Haley Stevens of Michigan, and Sharice Davids of Kansas — were at risk of being isolated from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley, and others who flipped blue districts to more vibrant progressive representation.

But as the Cook Reports's Amy Walters pointed out on Twitter, "The fight over the wall and shutdown has done more to unify Dems that it has to 'rally' the Trump base."

Democrats who wanted to stab Pelosi in the back are now watching her outmaneuver Trump and get national praise for it — creating no incentive other than to root her on.

Instead of being isolated, Ocasio-Cortez was seen leading many "Red to Blue" House freshman through the hallways of the Senate to tell Republican Leader Mitch McConnell to reopen the government. They knew that walking alongside her, and her millions of social media followers, was the best way to amplify their own message. And along the way, they built camaraderie and trust.

A similar collaborative letter to McConnell was signed by blue-district progressive powerhouses Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota; self-perceived moderates Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia; and those like Stevens, Hill and Davids, who campaigned progressively but were at risk of being isolated from the blue-district rockstars.

Hill even went on Chris Hayes' progressive-leaning MSNBC show to announce a big "Shut down the wall, open the government" day of action in conjunction with MoveOn and other progressive groups on Jan. 29 — the day originally slated for Trump's State Of The Union.

This partnership among House freshmen facing a common enemy in their first fight will be highly consequential for upcom-

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Trump loses on wall and declares victory

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.

After 35 days, President Donald Trump announced a deal to reopen the government on exactly the same terms that were available to him more than a month ago: A short-term funding bill with continuing negotiations on border security. Trump didn't so much cave as he just plain lost. He didn't have the votes, and as time went on he was even farther away from having them.

Yes, there will be some negotiations in a House-Senate conference committee over what to do about border security, and Democrats will cut a deal for increased spending that they would have been willing to agree to in December. But the border wall remains as dead as ever.

In a rambling Rose Garden statement, Trump still held out the threat of another shutdown when this bill runs out on Feb. 15. He also suggested he could invoke emergency powers to build his wall if the conference committee doesn't come up with the funding. Neither is very likely. Support for Trump's position has collapsed among Hill Republicans after Thursday's votes demonstrated his weak position, and as the air traffic control system started more visibly eroding Friday morning. Given that, it's hard to believe that Senate Republicans would shut down the government again, only to find themselves in exactly the same situation.

As for emergency powers, if Trump believed they were a good way to get what he wants, he likely would have already invoked them. It's not just that there's a very good chance the courts would reject him. Or that he would further alienate those, including many Republicans, who would consider it an abuse of power, an accusation Trump has to be particularly careful about as indictments of his former associates multiply. The even more immediate problem is that money spent by constitutionally dubious edict by the president without congressional appropriation has to come from someplace, and there are strong constituencies that will be very upset if he tries to take it (as has been floated already) from regular military spending or disaster relief.

Once again, the lesson is that government shutdowns are not some magical trump card that one side can play to force the other to surrender. In fact, as the third extended shutdown in U.S. history comes to an end, it's obvious that whatever the ethics of harming the nation in order to win a policy battle might be, such a maneuver is entirely ineffective as a negotiating tactic. And yet Republicans — the Newt Gingrich Republicans in 1995-1996, the Ted Cruz Republicans in 2013, and Trump and his supporters in 2018-2019 — keep trying anyway. One would hope they have finally learned how futile it is.

Granted, this time, it seems to have just been Trump personally who thought it was a good idea, perhaps egged on by a few House Freedom Caucus members. Other Republicans believed (correctly or not) that they were simply trapped into going along. Perhaps they were right; maybe if they had ended this in December or in early January Trump would have turned his scorn on them and caused them greater political trouble than they endured.

Trump's actions, on the other hand, just seem entirely irrational. He can always go down to the border, find some newly repainted or repaired fencing, declare a glorious victory, and the Fox News audience would go along. Or to put it another way:

Given that, forcing a confrontation that he was almost certain to lose just never made any sense.

Unfortunately, that means we still can't be entirely certain that there won't be a shutdown in February. But while Trump's actions may not be rational, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's usually are. If the president rejects whatever the conference committee does, McConnell will probably find another option, whether it's another short-term spending extension or, if necessary, just overriding Trump's veto.

As Richard Neustadt said, "The Presidency is no place for amateurs." It's very rare indeed for a president to retain that status in his third year in the Oval Office, but then again everything about Trump is very rare. With any luck, the next time he tries something this obviously inept it will be less damaging to the nation, but there's no guarantee of that.

AMERICAN

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find a meaningful and comprehensive solution to a wide range of immigration issues. The immigration system is broken in many ways. Border security has to be improved. The so-called dreamers — the children of parents who entered the United States illegally — need legal protection. And it would benefit us all if people who entered the country illegally have a path out of the shadows.

In the next few weeks and coming months, Democrats and Republicans have to cease gridlocking over politically expedient canards that make immigration a wedge issue. Lawmakers and the president must be prepared to hammer out a compromise but that will not happen unless both sides finally demonstrate the political courage to solve the problem.

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DEMOCRATS

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ing legislative debates.

Issues like Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, expanding Social Security, making college debt free, challenging Big Pharma, strengthening voting rights, and combating corporate money in politics are all opportunities to showcase to voters the big, popular ideas Democrats will advance if given more power in 2020.

Not all Democrats will start off on the same page in these debates, and it may take years to push these ideas into law.

But Pelosi and other House leaders will look at whether there is critical mass within the Democratic Caucus when deciding whether to even kick off these debates with hearings, votes and focus. After fighting alongside each other, it is now way more probable that swing-district House freshman will trust their progressive colleagues and give critical mass to bills they may have been on the fence about supporting otherwise.

And impeachment? If any House freshmen were under the illusion that Trump was a rational actor they could deal with — if only there were more rhetoric about "problem solving" — that illusion is fading. Now that Trump has poisoned the well for side deals, there is little down side to following the facts on his law breaking.

As Donald Trump faces increased accountability and sees 2020 voters inspired by increased congressional consensus for big progressive ideas, he will have himself to thank.

Trumped! The shutting down of a president

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

Watching live, we could barely believe our eyes: America's Unreality TV Show – performed before a live video-streaming audience, on a world stage formerly known as the Oval Office – had reached its climactic moment.

We had seen America's Commander-in-Chief delivering a torrent of ultimatums: Demanding his huge Border Wall. Withholding a month of paychecks for 800,000 patriotic workers-held-hostage because he didn't get his Wall. Demanding an invitation to give his State of the Union address to a Congress that would applaud him.

And then, with his booming demands still echoing, we saw America's Commander-in-Chief make his triumphant dramatic exit: Flinging open a door – storming out – and slamming it behind him! BAM!

But there was no thunderous ovation, just stunned silence – because we knew something our Commander-in-Chief clearly didn't: President Donald Trump had triumphantly stormed through the door and into a dark closet! THUNK! (Now he knew.)

Standing there in the darkness, Trump finally could see the big picture of what he had done to his presidency: He had mucked it up, bigtime (perhaps for all-time). He had virtually invited House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to disinvite him. So she did. She told him he can't make his State of the Union speech until America is once again a functioning union – until he has freed his hostages, paid them what he owned them, and showed that the government he heads was finally governing again.

His sudden circumstance of clarifying, closeted darkness, allowed even Trump's mind's eye to see for the first time the truths that were told in all those polls he'd been refusing to look at: His public opinion ratings were plummeting; so were those of his no-longer Grand Old Party. Americans had figured out that his demand for a massive wall all along the Mexican border just wasn't worth shutting down our government. Also, Americans had seen how horribly cruel Trump's government shutdown had been to the millions of patriotic families whose paychecks he had blocked. Americans had been warned by every respected national security figure (from both parties and no party at all) that America's skies and borders were in grave peril due to Trump's shutdown – that the next NEWSBREAK could be about a massive, deadly tragedy. Trump had come down his Tower escalator trumpeting campaign-announcement exaggerations about a Mexican border crisis threatening America's security – and finally, his thoughtless egocentric shutdown made it a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But now, the guy who had chosen the wrong door – and Trumped his triumphant exit by storming into a dark closet – clearly saw the ultimate and inescapable reality: He had stormed himself out of face-saving options – so he settled for a posterior-preserving ploy.

On Friday afternoon, Trump reappeared in our favorite Unreality TV spotlight – in the Rose Garden (it's one of the perks that's included in his public housing) with shoulders squared, hoping to convey as much artificial dignity he could muster.

And so he did. On Friday afternoon, Trump strode before the cameras in his Rose Garden and announced he was ending the government shutdown (yes, the same shutdown he had bragged, just a few weeks ago, he'd be proud to own). Also, he said all those patriotic workers the ones he had held hostage and penniless for a month) would be getting their back pay, pronto!

But Trump make clear that his good deed had an expiration date just three weeks away; then, he made clear, he'll be back to another shutdown or inventing and declaring some sort of Congress-evading emergency. And in a mondo-bizarro moment, Trump's claque of Cabinet toadies and staff apparatchiks erupted in applause, a bit of theatric cover for their leader's self-inflicted defeat.

Meanwhile, in the parlance of our president's former glittering property in Atlantic City, don't rush to place your bets. There's no smart money (or over/under money) being waged in Washington or Las Vegas on how many months federal government employees will be receiving their wages for working on the Trump plantation.

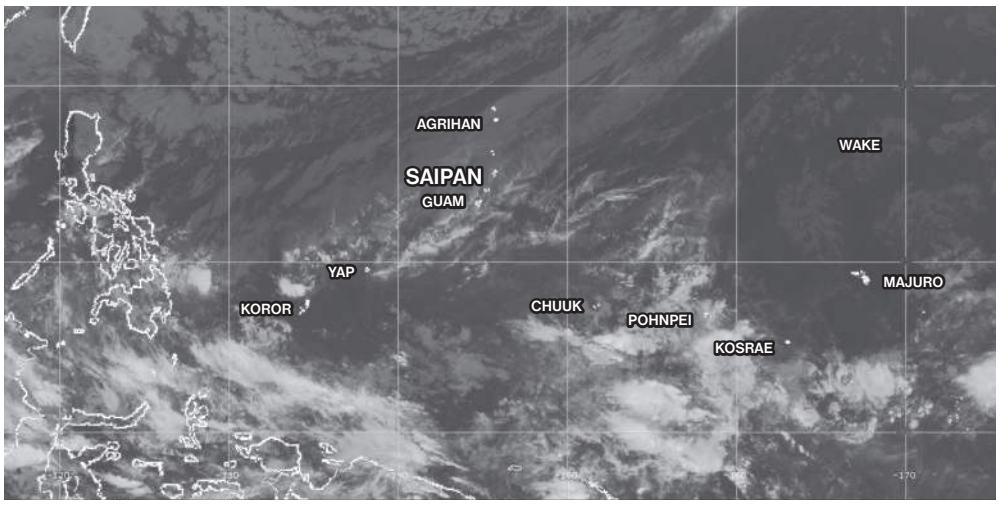
But here's the good news: So far, I haven't come across any respected Republicans who are willing to allow themselves to be rolled, yet again – to be conned, hogtied and trapped into another shutdown by their Ultimate Leader, who is once again performing live from the Oval Office, in the next episode of Unreality TV.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:22 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly mid and upper-level clouds will result in partly sunny skies today. This will also allow enough surface heating to generate additional low clouds during the late morning and afternoon. A weak shear line continues to slowly drift south toward the Marianas. Latest model guidance pushes the shear line through the islands this evening, however, this does not look very likely. Therefore, made some adjustments to winds and weather for tonight and Monday. Decided to push increasing winds and showers 12 hours later based on the previous slow drift of the line. On Monday, winds will increase over Saipan first, then spread south through the day. Due to the slow approach of the shear line, the possibility of scattered showers is decreasing. Based on this, decided to decrease POPs to 30%. Mostly cloudy skies will likely continue through the work week as the shear line moves very slowly toward the south. Showers, however, are expected to decrease to isolated by Tuesday morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 75°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	50° / 25°
Hong Kong	Sunny	68° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 66°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 72°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	90° / 66°
Miami	Showers	70° / 64°
New York	Mostly Sunny	38° / 29°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Paris	Cloudy	41° / 34°
Busan	Sunny	50° / 36°
Rome	Showers	50° / 37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	61° / 44°
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 49°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Sunny	50° / 34°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	43° / 36°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.44
7:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.67
1:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92
8:43 PM	LOW TIDE	0.33

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:13 AM	12:15 PM	-
Tuesday	1:06 AM	12:59 PM	-
Wednesday	1:59 AM	1:43 PM	-
Thursday	2:51 AM	2:29 PM	-
Friday	3:43 AM	3:17 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

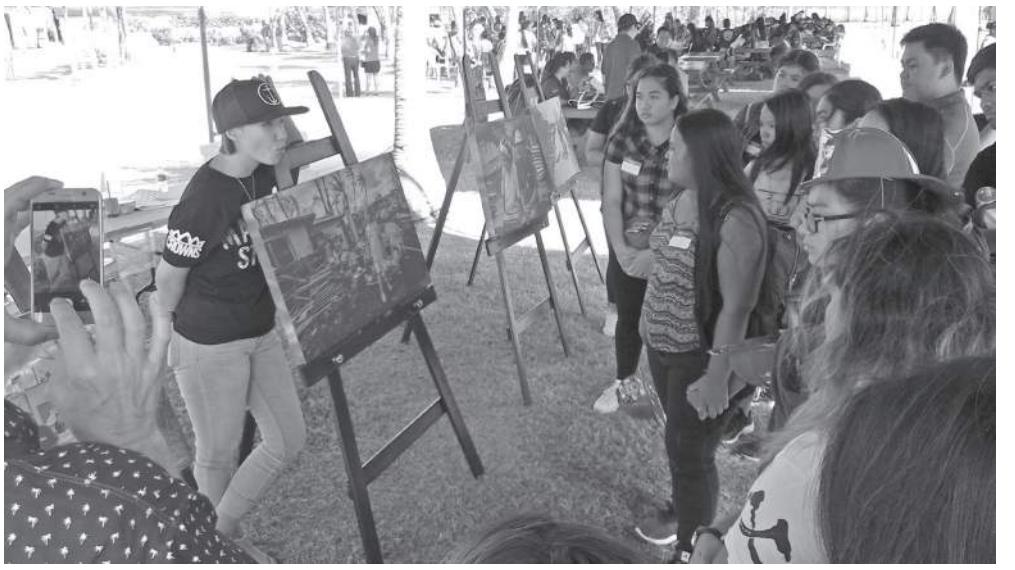
SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MTEC TOURISM SUMMIT



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Over 400 students from 14 public schools on Saipan participated in the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit held Thursday at the Marianas Base Camp, which is the former Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi. The theme of this year's MTEC's tourism summit is "Marianas Strong."

Business

Economy likely to pick up, though pain may linger for some

AP
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., accompanied by House Democratic members, listens to a reporters question after signing a deal to reopen the government on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

BALTIMORE (AP)—The U.S. economy will likely resume its steady growth now that the government has reopened, though economists say some scars—for the nation and for federal workers—will take time to heal.

Most analysts estimate that the 35-day partial shutdown shaved a few tenths of a percentage point from annual economic growth in the first three month of 2019. They say growth should pick up in the coming months, though some of the money federal workers and contractors didn't spend in the past five weeks—on such items as movie tickets, restaurants and travel—will never be made up. Having gone without two paychecks, many federal workers were forced to visit food banks or to borrow money. Federal workers will now receive backpay, though some contractors might not.

President Donald Trump agreed to reopen the government for three weeks after having forced the shutdown in hopes of compelling Democrats to approve billions for a wall on the Mexico border. Trump failed to secure any such money.

During the shutdown, a shortage of airport security and air traffic controllers disrupted travel at such major hubs as LaGuardia Airport in New York and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. The pressure on Trump to reopen the government intensified Friday after a delay of about 3,000 flights by mid-afternoon because six of 13 air traffic controllers didn't show up to work at a critical center in Virginia.

S&P Global Ratings estimates that the economy lost $6 billion because of the government closure—a sizable but relatively negligible sum in a $19 trillion-plus U.S. economy.

"If the shutdown had lasted much longer, the economic impacts would have snowballed—travel problems, tax refunds, etc.," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities.

Still, the damage isn't likely to lift immediately. And some federal employees had expressed anxiety during the shutdown about the stability and security of their jobs. The most skilled or talented among them may be likelier to leave government service, a potential problem for an economy already facing worker shortages in some areas.

Job searches by employees at multiple federal agencies jumped during the shutdown, according to clicks tracked by the jobs site Indeed. Employees who had gone unpaid at the Department of Homeland Security, Census Bureau, the IRS and the Transportation Safety Administration were much more likely to be hunting for a new job compared with the past two years of searches.

One lingering risk is if Trump chooses to shutter the government again after the three-week agreement lapses on Feb. 15. Should that occur, it would sabotage consumer confidence and hurt the economy, predicted Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

"It would wipe out confidence," Zandi said.

Travel groups praise deal on shutdown after flight delays

Politicians couldn't overcome their differences and end the government shutdown over five weeks. Six air traffic controllers might have given them the final nudge they needed.

Six of the 13 controllers who normally staff a critical air traffic center in Virginia didn't come to work Friday. That center handles air traffic in and out of the mid-Atlantic region and the New York City area.

Their absence contributed to a slowdown in air traffic and massive delays along the East Coast on Friday. LaGuardia Airport in New York and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey were particularly affected, and delays rippled outward from there—about 3,000 late flights by midafternoon.

Negotiations to end the shutdown had been gaining speed Thursday night. The air-traffic mess added urgency to the talks—by emphasizing how, for the first time, millions of ordinary Americans were affected.

On Friday afternoon, President Donald Trump went to a lectern in the Rose Garden and announced a deal to end—at least for three weeks—the partial government shutdown that had forced air traffic controllers and airport screeners to work without pay.

The shutdown had become a source of growing alarm for travelers and airlines. The absence rate among airport screeners peaked at 10 percent last weekend, meaning longer lines. Some government workers and contractors were grounded, costing Delta Air Lines up to $25 million and Southwest Airlines up to $15 million in lost revenue.

"This is crazy," Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said Thursday. "It just absolutely needs to end. ... It will harm the economy; it will harm air travel."

Friday's deal was greeted with relief in the travel industry.

Roger Dow, president of the U.S. Travel Association trade group, said he hoped the deal would end further disruption to air travel, "which undoubtedly would have begun to generate downstream economic damage throughout the country."

Union leaders representing pilots and flight attendants—who had warned two days earlier that the shutdown could put safety in doubt—praised the end of the shutdown.

Those who represent the workers involved tempered their enthusiasm because the deal keeps the government running only through Feb. 15 while Trump and Democrats negotiate over the president's demand for $5.7 billion in border-wall funding.

"While reopening the government is long overdue, I will not celebrate a temporary reprieve to a politically motivated crisis that has left many federal employees in anguish over how to pay their bills, feed their families, and keep a roof over their heads," said David Cox, national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents airport screeners hired by the Transportation Security Administration.

Flight delays that began on the East Coast became a major news story Friday, and the clearest sign yet of the shutdown's impact on travel.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said that there was a "slight increase in sick leave" at control centers in Virginia and Florida, and that the FAA had adjusted to meet available staffing by, among other things, rerouting flights and putting more space between planes in the air.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

12 immigrant workers at Trump golf course fired, lawyer says

NEW YORK (AP)—A dozen immigrant workers at one of President Donald Trump's golf clubs in New York who are in the U.S. illegally were fired this month even though managers had known about their legal status for years, a lawyer for the workers said Saturday. As the president railed during the partial government shutdown against immigrants coming into the country illegally, a manager at the Trump National Golf Club in Westchester County called a dozen immigrant workers into a room one by one Jan. 18 and fired them, said lawyer Anibal Romero. Many of them had worked at the club for a dozen or more years, he said, and managers knew they had submitted phony documents but looked the other way. "This is bogus. People have been there for 12, 13, 14 years," said Romero. He added, referring to one of the president's sons, "One had the keys to Eric Trump's bedroom." The firings come after workers at another Trump club in New Jersey came forward last month to say managers there had hired them knowing they were in the country illegally, and had even helped one obtain phony documents.

More than 25,000 workers strike at Mexican border factories

MEXICO CITY (AP)—More than 25,000 Mexican workers at dozens of factories south of Brownsville, Texas, went on strike Friday after owners of the plants that assemble for export refused union demands for a 20 percent pay hike and an annual bonus. The Union of Maquiladora Industry Industrial Workers of Matamoros, the SJOIIM, said that by late Saturday nine companies had agreed to meet the salary and bonus demands. Union leader Juan Villafuerte thanked union members who had stood outside in the rain and cold, noting "we hope to soon conclude this labor action." The government of Tamaulipas state said at least one company announced plans to leave the city of Matamoros. The state's development office said other companies had halted expansion projects. The strikes affect factories that make auto parts, medical equipment, plastics and other goods.

The labor strife comes on the heels of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's promise to double the minimum wage in communities along the U.S. border to 176.2 pesos a day, the equivalent of $9.28 at current exchange rates.

Migrant who founded Indonesian business empire dies

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Eka Tjipta Widjaja, patriarch of one of Asia's richest families and the founder of a sprawling Indonesian conglomerate, has died. He was 97.

Widjaja passed away on Saturday evening, according to Gandi Sulistiyanto, a managing director at the Sinarmas conglomerate. The son of migrants from Fujian in China, Widjaja was a coconut oil trader on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi in the 1930s before building businesses in palm oil, pulp and paper and mining. Forbes estimated Widjaja's fortune at $8.6 billion last year, making him Indonesia's third-richest person and the family among the 25 richest in Asia. He had several wives and according to some reports as many as 40 children. Sinarmas is known for the record $14 billion default of its Asia Pulp and Paper business in 2001. Earlier this decade it became an international pariah as Greenpeace campaigned against its destruction of Indonesia's rainforests.

Nation

Conservatives say Trump caved, but confident he'll get wall

WASHINGTON (AP)—No retreat, no surrender is how President Donald Trump frames his decision to temporarily reopen the government while still pursuing a border wall deal.

Some of his conservative backers have a different take: "pathetic" and "wimp."

Other Trump supporters seem willing to give Trump the benefit of the doubt, yet they insist that any ultimate government funding deal the president signs must include money for a wall.

Trump defended himself Saturday from the conservative backlash to his decision to end the 35-day-old partial government shutdown — the longest in U.S. history — without money for his promised border wall. He said if he didn't get a fair deal from Congress, the government would shut down again on Feb. 15 or he would use his executive authority to address what he has termed "the humanitarian and security crisis" on the southern U.S. border.

After he announced his decision, a New York newspaper headline dubbed him "CAVE MAN."

Conservative commentator Ann Coulter, a big wall supporter, called Trump the "biggest wimp" ever to occupy the Oval Office. A conservative news outlet, Breitbart, dubbed Trump's announcement on Friday a "short-term surrender to Democrats."

Trump insists he didn't cave to anyone and said the standoff with Democrats was far from over.

"Negotiations with Democrats will start immediately," Trump tweeted on Saturday. "Will not be easy to make a deal, both parties very dug in. The case for National Security has been greatly enhanced by what has been happening at the Border & through dialogue. We will build the Wall!"

Earlier, Trump tweeted: "This was in no way a concession. It was taking care of millions of people who were getting badly hurt by the Shutdown with the understanding that in 21 days, if no deal is done, it's off to the races!"

In California for a meeting of the Koch political network, Trump supporter and Koch donor Doug Deason of Texas said he was "severely disappointed" that the president agreed to reopen the federal government. Deason said he wanted Trump to go "nuclear" and keep the government closed as a way to cut the number of federal workers and would have preferred if Trump had used emergency funding to pay essential workers.

"We hired him to go shake up DC. We didn't hire him to maintain the status quo," said Deason, a member of the finance committee of America First Action, the only sanctioned pro-Trump super PAC.

While some of Trump's backers have lobbed insults at the president, others are willing to give him more time to negotiate.

"I'm a pragmatist. I understand when you're fighting a battle like this you have to do what's necessary to keep certain parts of the government moving," said Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University and a Trump confidant. "I think you have to do things like this to achieve a greater goal in the end. I believe that's what he's doing."

AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., center, accompanied by from left, Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, D-N.M., House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Md., Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Calif., and others, signs a deal to reopen the government on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019.

Transgender military personnel in limbo over Trump plan

NEW YORK (AP)—Long term, lawyers and activists battling to ensure that transgender people can serve openly in the U.S. military are convinced they will prevail. Short term, they are braced for anguishing consequences if the Trump administration proceeds with its plan to sharply restrict such service.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote Tuesday, gave the administration the green light to put the policy into effect even as legal challenges continue.

"I'm absolutely optimistic with respect to the long-term prospects," said Sharon McGowan, legal director of the LGBT rights group Lambda Legal, which is pressing one of the lawsuits. "The question is: How long is the long term?"

McGowan and other activists see parallels between the battle and the 17-year saga involving the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that prohibited gay men and women from serving openly in the armed forces. After prolonged controversy and litigation—as well as the discharge of more than 13,000 military personnel—Congress repealed the Clinton-era policy in 2010, and gay service members were able to serve openly beginning in 2011.

LGBT rights activist Andy Blevins, who served in the Navy from 2007 to 2011, said he underwent three investigations related to "don't ask" before he was finally discharged on medical grounds. He is now executive director of OutServe-SLDN, which represents LGBT personnel in the military and is engaged in the litigation against the Trump plan.

Blevins grows emotional in describing the "daily struggle" to keep his sexual orientation a secret before repeal of "don't ask," yet he suggested that currently serving transgender people face even tougher circumstances. They were told in 2016, in the waning months of the Obama administration, that they would be able to serve openly, then were jolted in 2017 when President Donald Trump tweeted his intention to ban all transgender people from the military.

"They were told it's OK to be transgender ... then the rug is pulled out from under these dedicated service members," Blevins said.

Yet he said activists have made major progress in convincing politicians and the public that the Trump plan is based on misinformation and prejudice.

"We have optimism that we're going to win the war," he said. "This is just a setback, a speed bump."

OutServe-SLDN's legal director, Peter Perkowski, is teaming with Lambda Legal lawyers on one of four lawsuits challenging Trump's plan. Though he shares Blevins' long-term optimism, he is wary of the outcome if any of the lawsuits reach the Supreme Court, now with a solidified conservative majority thanks to the addition of Trump appointees Neal Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Teachers succeed by framing strikes as for common good

Los Angeles teachers who declared a victory after a six-day strike have added momentum to a successful wave of activism by educators framing their cause as a push to improve public education, not just get pay raises.

Teachers in Denver, Oakland, Virginia, Texas, Washington and Illinois are planning rallies, marches and, in some cases, strikes of their own—actions that have fed off one another since the movement began last spring in West Virginia.

"Some of this action breeds more action," said Daniel Montgomery, president of the teachers union in Illinois, where the nation's first strike against a charter school network ended last month in Chicago. "People look around and say, 'It is possible to do this. The teachers walked out in West Virginia and the walls didn't cave in.'"

In several states, governors and lawmakers are moving pre-emptively to address teachers' grievances through proposals to increase money for education.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and new House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, both Republicans, emphasized more spending on schools as they were sworn in this month. Elected officials in New Mexico , Georgia , Indiana,Mississippi and Arkansas are among others who have proposed increases in teacher pay early in the new year.

"Some state legislators may get wise and head this off ahead of time," said Kenneth Dau-Schmidt, a labor and employment law professor at Indiana University. "You may see less strikes just because legislatures get out in front of the problem."

In Los Angeles , 30,000 teachers returned to work Wednesday. They settled for the same 6 percent raise offered early on by the nation's second-largest school district, but they also secured promises for smaller class sizes and more nurses and counselors to benefit students.

Labor historian Joseph McCartin, a professor at Georgetown University, said the recent actions have been more popular politically than a series of teacher strikes in the 1970s because of how they are framed.

"What you're seeing in each of these cases is when teachers did engage in militancy, they did so not just to win raises for themselves, and sometimes not even primarily to win raises for themselves," he said, "but to push back against the austerity regime that was undermining public education."

Montgomery said teachers have made a point to discuss things like crowded classrooms and inadequate supplies, an approach that drew public support for Detroit teachers during "sickouts" in 2016.

"They couldn't strike, but the teachers did a sickout to call attention to rats in school districts and buckled gym floors and standing sewage and things like that, and people see that and they get outraged," the Illinois union leader said. "It's bringing it to people's consciousness in a way that they can see and feel."

Unions in several districts have been taking cues from the movement that began with the nine-day teacher walkout in West Virginia before spreading to Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona and beyond.

Denver teachers were ready to walk out Monday before school officials asked the state to intervene, delaying their plans to strike over the district's pay scale after more than a year of negotiations.

A Washington state union that represents school employees invited a West Virginia teacher to an assembly last spring after their walkout ended with a 5 percent raise for teachers and other staff.

Asia

PH Muslims approve new autonomous region in referendum

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslims in the southern Philippines overwhelmingly approved in a referendum the creation of a new autonomous region in hopes of ending nearly half a century of unrest, election officials said.

The Commission on Elections announced late Friday that the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is deemed ratified following a referendum on Monday. It says 1.5 million people voted in favor.

Bangsamoro replaces an existing poverty-wracked autonomous region with a larger, better-funded and more powerful entity.

It is the result of a tumultuous peace effort by the government in Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Muslim rebel group, to seal a deal that was signed in 2014 but languished in the Philippine Congress until it was finally approved last year. Bloodshed including the siege of Marawi city by Islamic State-linked militants and other bombings and attacks in the south threatened to derail it.

AP

Muslim woman casts her ballot in a referendum at the Marawi Sagonsongan elementary school-turned polling station in Marawi, Lanao del Sur province, southern Philippines, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

Commissioner Susana Anayatin of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission said that the ratification of the autonomy law "marks the beginning of a new government and another journey toward peace."

Under the deal, the rebels gave up their goal of an independent state in the majority Christian Philippines in exchange for broad autonomy, although they originally wanted a federal unit with more powers. Their 30,000 to 40,000 fighters are to be demobilized. A regional parliament will be in charge of day-to-day affairs.

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, chairman of the Moro rebels, has appealed to the international community to contribute to a trust fund to be used to finance the insurgents' transition from decades of waging one of Asia's longest rebellions.

Western governments have welcomed the autonomy pact. They worry that small numbers of IS-linked militants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia could forge an alliance with Filipino insurgents and turn the south into a breeding ground for extremists.

Not all Muslim-dominated areas voted in favor of the new autonomy. Sulu province, the base of a rival rebel faction, rejected it.

A second referendum on Feb. 6 will ask residents of Lanao del Norte province and seven towns in North Cotabato province with a sizeable Muslim population to decide whether they want to join the new region as well.

In 2017, Philippine troops backed by U.S. and Australian surveillance aircraft routed the militants who occupied Marawi for five months in battles that left more than 1,200 people, mostly Islamic fighters, dead and the mosque-studded city in ruins. Overall, the conflict has left about 150,000 people dead over several decades and stunted development in the resource-rich but underdeveloped southern region that is the country's poorest.

19 dead as bombs target cathedral in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two bombs exploded outside a Roman Catholic cathedral on a southern Philippine island where Muslim militants are active, killing at least 19 people and wounding nearly 50 during a Sunday Mass, officials said.

The first bomb went off in or near the Jolo cathedral in the provincial capital, followed by a second blast outside the compound as government forces were responding to the attack, security officials said.

Philippine National Police chief Oscar Albayalde said that at least 19 people died and 48 were wounded. Police and military reports said the casualties included both troops and civilians.

Photos on social media showed debris and bodies lying on a busy street outside the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which has been hit by bombs in the past. Troops in armored carriers sealed off the main road leading to the church while vehicles were transporting the dead and wounded to the hospital. Some casualties were evacuated by air to nearby Zamboanga city.

"I have directed our troops to heighten their alert level, secure all places of worships and public places at once, and initiate pro-active security measures to thwart hostile plans," said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in a statement.

Jolo island has long been troubled by the presence of Abu Sayyaf militants, who are blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization because of years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings.

No one has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

It came nearly a week after minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation endorsed a new autonomous region in the southern Philippines in hopes of ending nearly five decades of a separatist rebellion that has left 150,000 people dead. Although most of the Muslim areas approved the autonomy deal, voters in Sulu province, where Jolo is located, rejected it. The province is home to a rival rebel faction that's opposed to the deal as well as smaller militant cells that not part of any peace process.

Western governments have welcomed the autonomy pact. They worry that small numbers of Islamic State-linked militants from the Middle East and Southeast Asia could forge an alliance with Filipino insurgents and turn the south into a breeding ground for extremists.

"This bomb attack was done in a place of peace and worship, and it comes at a time when we are preparing for another stage of the peace process in Mindanao," said Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. "Human lives are irreplaceable," he added, calling on Jolo residents to cooperate with authorities to find the perpetrators of this "atrocity."

Security officials were looking "at different threat groups and they still can't say if this has something to do with the just concluded plebiscite," Albayalde, the national police chief, told ABS-CBN TV network.

Aside from the small but brutal Abu Sayyaf group, other militant groups in Sulu include a small band of young jihadis aligned with the Islamic State group, which has also carried out assaults, including ransom kidnappings and beheadings.

US envoy claims 'significant progress' in talks with Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S. peace envoy to Afghanistan said Saturday that "significant progress" was made during lengthy talks with the Taliban in Qatar and that he was traveling to Afghanistan for more discussions aimed at ending the country's destructive 17-year war.

Zalmay Khalilzad said on his official Twitter account that he wants to build on six days of meetings in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

"Meetings here were more productive than they have been in the past," he said without providing details. "We made significant progress on vital issues."

Taliban officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media said they have reached an understanding on the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops and that Afghan soil will not be used for attacks or threats against the U.S. or other countries.

It wasn't clear whether Khalilzad is seeking written guarantees from the Taliban that they will distance themselves from al-Qaida operatives, including Ayman al Zawahiri, who live among them or at the very least have safe passage and havens within territory they control.

Zawahiri, an Egyptian, took over the leadership of al-Qaida following the 2011 killing of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan by U.S. Navy SEALS.

There are also believed to be a number of Arabic-speaking jihadis associated with the Haqqani network, considered the most lethal of the Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

It wasn't clear how the U.S. could verify Taliban promises to ensure Afghan territory is not again a staging arena for attacks outside its borders.

There was also no indication that the Taliban would agree to a cease-fire, which Khalilzad has been seeking, or when the Taliban would hold direct talks with the Afghan government, something they have continued to reject.

The Haqqanis did send three representatives to a meeting with Khalilzad in the United Arab Emirates last month, an indication that they are in sync with the Taliban leadership conducting the negotiations.

It wasn't immediately clear if any were in attendance this past week in Qatar.

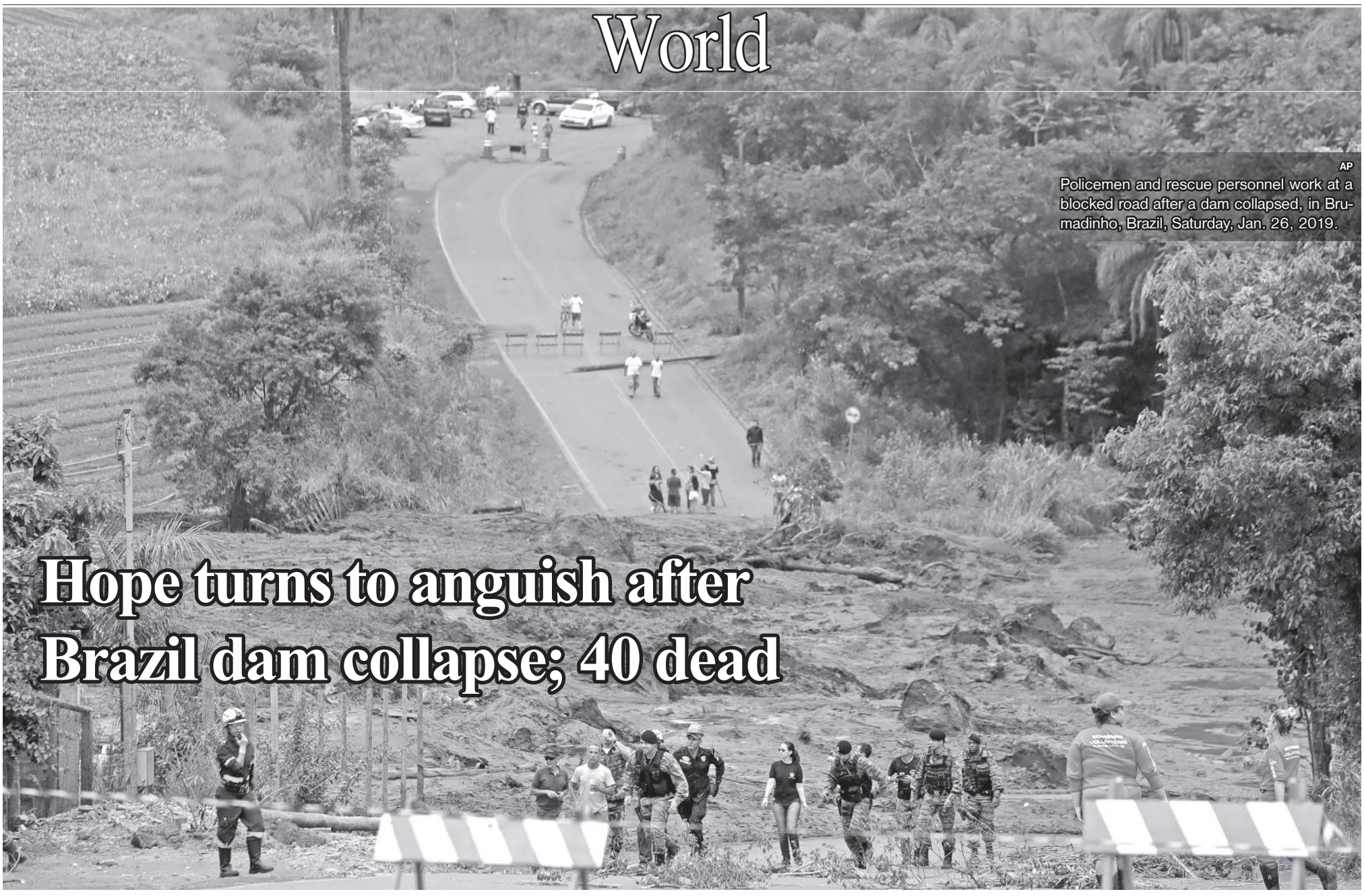
The Taliban negotiating team that met this week in Qatar with Khalilzad were all senior members of the movement. They included Salam Hanafi, Muhammad Hanif and Mohammad Zahid Ahmadzai __ all members of the Taliban leadership council __ Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban's Qatar office, Shahabuddin Dilawar, Muhammad Fazl and Khairullah Khairkhwah.

Both Fazl and Khairkhwah were among five Taliban freed from the U.S. prison at Gunatanamo Bay in 2014 in exchange for U.S. Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl who had been captured by the Taliban in 2009 after he wandered off his base.

These negotiations are the most significant held to date.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a statement Saturday said the Taliban are steadfast in their demand that no substantive progress is possible without a troop withdrawal. But he did acknowledge progress.

World



AP
Policemen and rescue personnel work at a blocked road after a dam collapsed, in Brumadinho, Brazil, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

Hope turns to anguish after Brazil dam collapse; 40 dead

BRUMADINHO, Brazil (AP)—Hope that loved ones had survived a tsunami of iron ore mine waste from a dam collapse in Brazil was turning to anguish and anger over the increasing likelihood that many of the hundreds of people missing had died.

By Saturday night, when authorities called off rescue efforts until day break, the death toll stood at 40 dead with up to 300 people estimated to be missing. Throughout the day, helicopters flew low over areas buried by mud and firefighters worked to get to structures by digging.

"I'm angry. There is no way I can stay calm," said Sonia Fatima da Silva, as she tried to get information about her son, who had worked at Vale mining company for 20 years. "My hope is that they be honest. I want news, even if it's bad."

Da Silva said she last spoke to her son before he went to work on Friday, when around midday a dam holding back mine waste collapsed, sending waves of mud for kilometers (miles) and burying much in its path.

Employees of the mining complex owned and operated by Brazilian mining company Vale were eating lunch Friday afternoon when the dam gave way.

Throughout Saturday, scores of families in the city of Brumadinho desperately awaited word on their loved ones as Romeu Zema, governor of Minas Gerais state, said that at this point most recovery efforts would entail pulling out bodies.

The flow of waste reached the nearby community of Vila Ferteco and an occupied Vale administrative office. On Saturday, rooftops poked above an extensive field of the mud, which also cut off roads. After the dam collapse, some were evacuated from Brumadinho. Other residents of the affected areas barely escaped with their lives.

"I saw all the mud coming down the hill, snapping the trees as it descended. It was a tremendous noise," said a tearful Simone Pedrosa, from the neighborhood of Parque Cachoeira, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from where the dam collapsed.

Pedrosa, 45, and her parents dashed to their car and drove to the highest point in the neighborhood. "If we had gone down the other direction, we would have died," Pedrosa said.

"I cannot get that noise out of my head," she said. "It's a trauma ... I'll never forget."

In addition to the 40 bodies recovered as of Saturday night, 23 people were hospitalized, said authorities with the Minas Gerais fire department. There had been some signs of hope earlier Saturday when authorities found 43 more people alive.

The company said in a statement Saturday that while 100 workers were accounted for, more than 200 workers were still missing. Fire officials at one point estimated the total number at close to 300.

Vale CEO Fabio Schvartsman said he did not know what caused the collapse. About 300 employees were working when it happened.

For many, hope was evaporating.

"I don't think he is alive," said Joao Bosco, speaking of his cousin, Jorge Luis Ferreira, who worked for Vale. "Right now, I can only hope for a miracle of God."

Vanilza Sueli Oliveira described the wait for news of her nephew as "distressing, maddening."

Venezuela backtracks on order to expel US diplomats

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Nicolas Maduro's government backtracked Saturday from its order for U.S. Embassy personnel to leave Venezuela, moving to defuse tensions with Washington just hours after international diplomats traded heated rhetoric at a special U.N. Security Council meeting on the South American country's crisis.

The socialist president broke relations with the United States on Wednesday after the Trump administration and many other nations in the region recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president, a move that Maduro called a "vile" coup attempt.

His order gave U.S. diplomats three days to leave the country, but the Trump administration said it wouldn't obey, arguing that Maduro is no longer Venezuela's legitimate president. That set the stage for a potential showdown at the hilltop U.S. Embassy compound Saturday night, when the deadline was to expire.

But as the sun set on Venezuela's capital, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying Maduro's government was suspending the expulsion to provide a 30-day window for negotiating with the Trump administration on setting up a "U.S. interests office" in Venezuela and a similar Venezuelan office in the United States. The U.S. and Cuba had a similar arrangement for decades before the Obama administration restored diplomatic relations with the communist-run island.

The State Department did not confirm the Venezuelan government's account, reiterating only that its priority remains the safety of its personnel and that it has no plans to close the embassy.

"That is true diplomacy," Maduro said after reading out the statement on national television.

Earlier in the day, critics and supporters of Maduro's government faced off at the U.N. Security Council, reflecting the world's deep divisions over Venezuela, which is mired in political confrontation as well as an economic collapse that has caused millions to flee the country.

During the debate, which was requested by the U.S., Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged all nations to end Venezuela's "nightmare" and support Guaido. He told the council it is time to back the Venezuelan people as they try to free themselves from what he called Maduro's "illegitimate mafia state."

Pope challenged on sex abuse as young take stage in Panama

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Young people challenged Pope Francis on the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal and the plight of Christians in the Middle East as the youth took center stage Saturday in the final events of World Youth Day in Panama.

Organizers said some 600,000 people turned out for Saturday's main event, an evening vigil service in the Metropark area of east Panama City. Many of them were spending the night in tents or just on sleeping mats to be in place for an early morning final Mass formally ending the religious festival.

After looping through the cheering crowds in his popemobile, Francis told the young he understood their anxieties and fears for a future where jobs are scarce and education not always available.

"It is easy enough to criticize and complain about young people if we are depriving them of the jobs, education and community opportunities they need to take root and to dream of a future," he told the pilgrims, many of whom clutched rosaries, swayed in prayer and draped themselves in flags from across the Americas and beyond.

The vigil was the culmination of a busy day for Francis that included a luncheon with 10 young pilgrims representing each of the continents. The Vatican described the atmosphere as familiar and festive, and the young people said they were surprised at Francis' informality and interest in their questions.

Brenda Noriega, a Mexican-born youth minister from San Bernardino, California, said she told Francis that the sex abuse scandal in the United States was a "crisis right now we cannot avoid talking about." She said Francis called abuse a "horrible crime" and assured her that the church was committed to supporting victims.

Focus

AP FACT CHECK:

Trump exaggerations on wall, NKorea, economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Over the past week, President Donald Trump declared that the remains of U.S. service members are "back home where they belong" from North Korea, though that mission has barely started and already has run into a roadblock. He exaggerated economic performance under his presidency and the progress of the border wall that Congress, so far, won't pay for.

A review of his recent rhetoric and its relationship with the facts:

NORTH KOREA

TRUMP: "The Fake News Media loves saying 'so little happened at my first summit with Kim Jong Un.' Wrong! After 40 years of doing nothing with North Korea but being taken to the cleaners, & with a major war ready to start, in a short 15 months, relationships built, hostages & remains ... back home where they belong, no more Rockets or M's being fired over Japan or anywhere else and, most importantly, no Nuclear Testing."—tweets Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump is exaggerating progress with North Korea and overstating what's been done to return the remains of U.S. soldiers who fought in the Korean War in the 1950s.

In August, the North sent to the U.S. 55 boxes that were said to contain American war remains from North Korea. The U.S. has yet to say whether those remains are exclusively of U.S. soldiers and how many are in those boxes. As of Jan. 15, just three have been positively identified. Meanwhile, North Korea has refused to begin negotiations with the Pentagon on terms for recovering and returning any of the thousands of additional remains.

Trump is correct that North Korea has stopped test-firing missiles and conducting nuclear tests. But North Korean leader Kim has not denuclearized or even agreed to a plan in which the North would give up its nuclear weapons and the means to produce more.

At the Trump-Kim summit last June in Singapore, the leaders agreed to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." Their joint statement did not define that term or commit the North to any particular action.

The Pentagon said in a report this month on its plans to expand U.S. global defenses against missile attack that "while a possible new avenue to peace now exists with North Korea, it continues to pose an extraordinary threat and the United States must remain vigilant."

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "The Economy is one of the best in our history, with unemployment at a 50 year low, and the Stock Market ready to again break a record (set by us many times) - & all you heard yesterday, based on a phony story, was Impeachment. You want to see a Stock Market Crash, Impeach Trump!"—tweet Jan. 19.

THE FACTS: The economy is healthy but not one of the best in history. Also, there are signs it is weakening after a spurt of growth last year.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 4.2 percent in the second quarter last year. That was the best showing under Trump and the highest in four years. In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years and even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

Almost all independent economists expect slower growth this year as the effect of the Trump administration's tax cuts fade, trade tensions and slower global growth hold back exports, and higher interest rates make it more expensive to borrow to buy cars and homes.

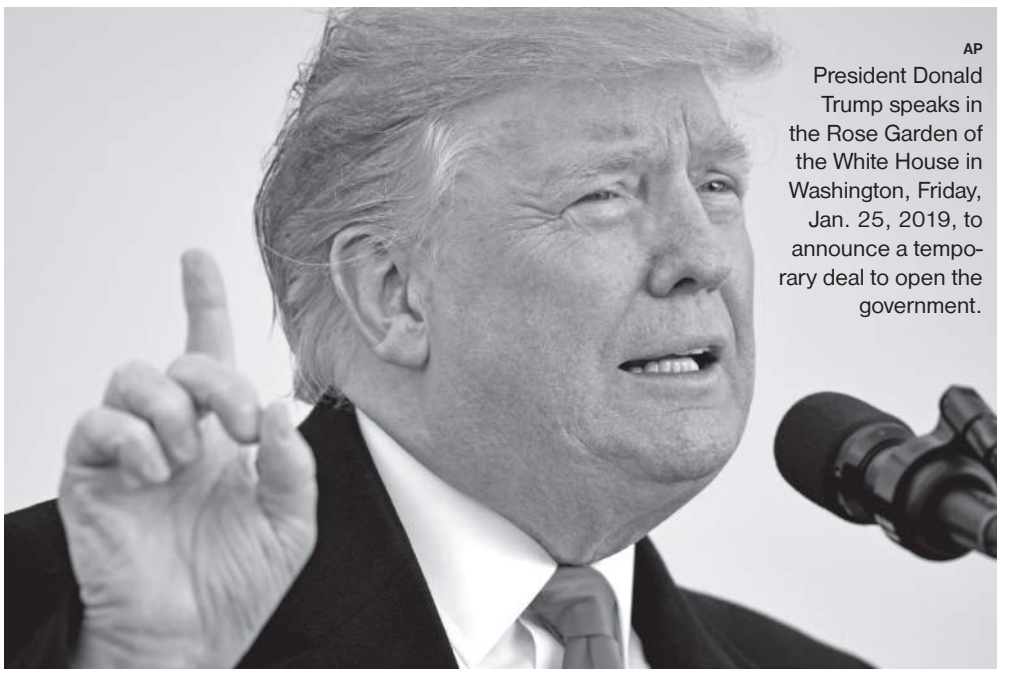
The stock market reached a record high in early October when the Dow Jones industrial average topped 26,000, but markets have fallen and are not about to break records. The Dow closed at 24,737 on Friday.

TRUMP: "The economy is doing great. More people working in U.S.A. today than at any time in our HISTORY."—tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: It's true that more people are working now, but that is because of population growth. A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still far below record highs.

According to Labor Department data, 60.6 percent of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in December. That's below the all-time high of 64.7 percent in April 2000, though higher than the 59.9 percent when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017.

WHITE HOUSE: "President Trump is delivering on his promise to bring back American manufacturing. ... Manufacturing added 284,000 jobs in 2018, the most added in a year since 1997."—information sheet on Trump's first two years in office, tweeted Wednesday by Trump.



AP

President Donald Trump speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, to announce a temporary deal to open the government.

THE FACTS: It's true that 2018 was the best year for factory employment since 1997, but that mostly illustrates how much more is needed to "bring back" manufacturing. There are now 12.8 million factory jobs in the U.S. That less than the 13.7 million that existed just before the 2008-2009 Great Recession and far below the 17.6 million in 1997, the last time annual factory job growth was higher.

WHITE HOUSE: "President Trump's pro-growth policies are unleashing economic growth .... Due to President Trump's pro-growth policies, real gross domestic product growth exceeded 3 percent over the last four quarters."—information sheet on Trump's first two years in office.

THE FACTS: That's correct as to the level of GDP, but it doesn't suggest growth has been "unleashed" at a spectacular rate. The 3 percent growth in the year ending in the third quarter is just the fastest since the second quarter of 2015, when it reached 3.4 percent, and below the 3.8 percent reached in the first quarter of 2015.

THE WALL

TRUMP: "Without a Wall there cannot be safety and security at the Border or for the U.S.A. BUILD THE WALL AND CRIME WILL FALL!"—tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "BUILD A WALL & CRIME WILL FALL! This is the new theme, for two years until the Wall is finished (under construction now), of the Republican Party. Use it and pray!"—tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: His assertion is at odds with several studies that found immigration does not lead to increased crime. Trump's claim that his border wall is under construction is also misleading.

Multiple studies from social scientists and the libertarian think tank Cato Institute have found that people in the U.S. illegally are less likely to commit crime than are American citizens, and legal immigrants are even less likely to do so.

A March study by the journal Criminology found "undocumented immigration does not increase violence."

The study, which looked at the years 1990 through 2014, said states with bigger shares of such people have lower crime rates.

As well, a study in 2017 by Robert Adelman, a sociology professor at University of Buffalo, analyzed 40 years of crime data in 200 metropolitan areas and found that immigrants helped lower crime.

On construction of a wall, no new miles of barrier construction have been completed under Trump. Existing fencing has been replaced or strengthened in a few areas. It's true that many miles of barrier are in service—about 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of fencing—but that was done by previous administrations.

TRUMP: "Without a Wall it all doesn't work."—tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: There is no clear evidence whether border walls or other barriers actually work.

The Government Accountability Office, Congress' auditing arm, reported in 2017 that the government does not have a way to measure how well barriers deter illegal immigration from Mexico. Despite $2.3 billion spent by the government on such construction from 2007 to 2015, the GAO found that authorities "cannot measure the contribution of fencing to border security operations along the southwest border because it has not developed metrics for this assessment."

Few people dispute that barriers can contribute to a sharp drop in crossings. When barriers were built in the Border Patrol's Yuma, Arizona, sector in the mid-2000s, arrests for illegal crossings plummeted 94 percent in three years to 8,363 from 138,438. When barriers were built in San Diego in the 1990s and early 2000s, arrests fell 80 percent over seven years from 524,231 in 1995 to 100,681 in 2002. But both areas also saw sharp increases in Border Patrol staffing during that time, making it difficult to pinpoint why illegal crossings fell so dramatically.

CLINTON EMAILS

TRUMP, referring to Hillary Clinton: "Remember July 4th weekend when Crooked went before FBI & wasn't sworn in, no tape, nothing?"—tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He is right that Clinton wasn't put under oath for her FBI interview and that no tape recording was made. But that's the standard procedure the FBI uses for questioning people, famous or not, and who, like Clinton, agree to be interviewed and aren't in custody.

The same procedures would almost certainly apply if Trump himself ever submitted to an in-person interview with special counsel Robert Mueller's team of investigators.

The concept of swearing in a witness typically applies to courtroom or congressional settings, as opposed to more informal voluntary interviews. But it's ultimately a meaningless distinction because it's a crime no matter the circumstances to lie to the FBI.

Trump is wrong to suggest there's no record of Clinton's interview with the FBI on July 2, 2016. The FBI, again per standard protocol, produced a typed-up document summarizing the main points of the interview. The bureau later released it, giving more transparency to the process than it typically provides.

JUDGES

WHITE HOUSE: "President Trump is reshaping our Federal judiciary...the President has appointed Circuit Court judges at a record pace."—information sheet on Trump's first two years in office, tweeted Wednesday by Trump.

THE FACTS: The White House is overstating Trump's impact on the judiciary. It's true he has appointed a record number of judges in the circuit (or appeals) courts. But Trump falls below at least three former presidents in appointees as a share of congressionally authorized judicial seats, given that the federal court system has grown in size over time. Trump also lags significantly when it comes to appointing district court judges, who handle the bulk of federal cases.

Trump has appointed 30 appeals judges, surpassing others in number at comparable points in their presidencies, according to an analysis by Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and expert on judicial appointments. Those 30 judges make up 17 percent of congressionally authorized appeals court seats. Presidents who appointed a higher share of appeals judges included Richard Nixon (21 judges, or 19 percent); John F. Kennedy (18 judges, or 20 percent) and Dwight Eisenhower (13 judges, or 39 percent).

When including district court judges, Trump's 85 total appointees lag behind five former presidents at comparable points in office.

The five are George W. Bush, 99; Bill Clinton, 128; Ronald Reagan, 88; Nixon, 91; and Kennedy, 111, according to Wheeler's analysis. Their appointees, at this point in their presidencies, also held a greater percentage of authorized seats than do Trump's.

Trump has previously asserted incorrectly that only George Washington surpasses him in judicial appointments because as the first president Washington appointed all the judges in office at the time.

Health & Wellness

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Walking builds family ties, muscle

By NANCI HELLMICH
USA TODAY

Walking is one of the most common physical activities that parents and children do together, a recent survey found.

To build on that healthy habit this summer, exercise physiologist Melinda Sothern recommends purchasing inexpensive pedometers for the entire family and creating a walking game.

Be as creative as you can when making rules and naming your game, says Sothern, a co-author of "Trim Kids" and director of pediatric obesity research at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

Her idea: Everyone should clip a pedometer on his or her waistband and wear it from first thing in the morning until bedtime. Have family members estimate the number of steps they're going to take, and then, at the end of the day, compare that with the count on the pedometers.

The winner would be the person who guessed the closest to his actual number of steps, Sothern says. "It's sort of like the game show 'The Price Is Right.' "

Or make the winner the person who takes at least 10,000 steps for the day. That's the amount many health experts recommend.

The winner would select a sport or physical activity for the entire family to play together. It might be taking a trip to a nearby water slide, horseback riding, dancing around the living room, bowling, shooting hoops, jumping rope or playing an active indoor game.

One creative way to have kids increase their steps is to organize scavenger hunts, she says.

For a nature-focused outdoor scavenger hunt, make of list of things everyone needs to find, such as flowers that attract butterflies, small stones, different types of wildflowers, pine cones, dandelions and small sticks.

An indoor hunt might be for hidden small change or clues left in different locations to direct players to the jackpot or other prizes, such as tickets to the zoo.

Kids could keep a log or make a poster of how many steps they took to do different activities, Sothern says. Family members could compare logs and come up with new ways to get even more steps during the next week.

'All calories are not alike': Cutting carbs instead of calories keeps weight off, study says

By NARA SCHOENBERG
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In a study of overweight people maintaining weight loss, those on a low-carbohydrate diet burned about 250 more calories per day than those on a high-carbohydrate diet.

The study of 164 people, published recently by The BMJ medical journal, notes the challenge of maintaining weight loss in the face of the resulting hunger and metabolism slowdown, and says that the calorie-burning effect of a low-carb diet "may improve the success of obesity treatment."

"These findings show that all calories are not alike to the body, and that restricting carbohydrates may be a better strategy for long-term weight loss than restricting calories," said study co-author Dr. David Ludwig, co-director of the New Balance Foundation Obesity Prevention Center at Boston Children's Hospital.

The study addresses one of the most vexing problems in weight loss: As the weight comes off, the body fights back, burning fewer calories and bombarding us with hunger signals.

"It's a recipe for failure," Ludwig said.

It's also something of a mystery: Why does the body react as if it's starving when it clearly is not? For some researchers, including Ludwig, the answer lies in the carbohydrate-insulin model, the theory that processed carbohydrates such as white bread trigger hormonal changes that lead to hunger, metabolic slowdown and weight gain.

Processed carbohydrates digest quickly into sugar, raising insulin levels, Ludwig said. Insulin, in turn, programs fat cells to store excess calories. When calories are locked up in fat cells, the brain can't perceive them and thinks the body needs more food.

The authors of the study collaborated with Framingham State University, where 164 overweight people—students, staff, faculty and community members—agreed to eat only study-supplied food. First, study participants lost about 12 percent of their body weight, roughly 20 to 25 pounds for the average participant.

"We know that's going to stress their metabolism," Ludwig said.

Then for the 20-week test phase, study participants were randomly placed in three groups: those who ate diets composed of 20 percent carbohydrates, 40 percent, or 60 percent. Each diet contained 20 percent protein, with the remaining portion composed of fat. Diets used healthy foods and were as similar as possible, Ludwig said. The goal at this stage was to maintain the weight loss, not to lose any more weight.

Those on the low-carb diet burned 209 to 278 more calories per day than those on the high-carb diet, a difference that would lead to an estimated 22-pound weight loss over three years if researchers weren't intervening to maintain weight.

And the effect was even larger for those who produced high levels of insulin in response to carbohydrates; they burned 308 to 478 more calories a day on the low-carb diet than they did on the high-carb diet.

How do you know if you're a high insulin secreter? "Look in the mirror," Ludwig advised. "If your fat distribution is predominantly around the midsection—so you are more like an apple than a pear—you're more likely to be a high insulin secreter."

Physical activity levels were very similar for the three diet groups before the study began, Ludwig said.

The researchers encouraged all participants to maintain their usual level of physical activity, which was monitored. During the study, the low-carb group showed a tendency toward more moderate-vigorous physical activity, perhaps as a result of the diet, Ludwig said via email. But he emphasized that exercise was only a minor component of the total effect on calories burned.

A co-author of a 2015 PloS One journal article comparing low-fat and low-carb diets praised the precision and design of the new study, including the direct calculation of energy expenditure, which is difficult and labor intensive.

"I think they brought a level of sophistication that you don't tend to see in these kinds of trials," said Dr. Jonathan Sackner-Bernstein, a former Food and Drug Administration associate center director for technology and innovation who does consulting for drug and device companies.

Sackner-Bernstein said the study reinforced his belief that the more sensitive you are to carbohydrates, in terms of your insulin response, the more important it is to be on a carbohydrate-restricted diet.

Ludwig said the study's findings are very close to what the authors predicted, but more work needs to be done.

"This is one study, so the findings need to be replicated and examined in a broader population—although we did have quite a demographic variety in our participants," he said. "We need to see how this effect might play out in other studies, how other populations would respond."

Life & Style

REVIEW:

Everything is pretty good in 'The LEGO Movie 2'

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows the characters Emmet, left, and Rex Dangervest, center, both voiced by Chris Pratt, in a scene from "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part."

"The LEGO Movie" is a hard act to follow. Its world was so fresh and vibrant and unexpected, it's no wonder that it spawned a number of spinoffs of varying quality. But the big test was always going to be the sequel and whether or not it could recreate the magic of the first. And I'm pleased to report that "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part " is pretty darn good, but also you can't help shake the feeling that it's just never going to live up to the exciting newness of the first.

The script, written by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, is once again whip-smart. Jokes and clever pop culture references whizz by at lightning speed and you'll be lucky to catch even half of them on the first watch. Even the songs (there are a few more this time) are packed with Lord and Miller wit. And you'll definitely want to stay for the credits song which, oddly enough, is one of the best parts of the movie despite not really being part of the movie.

But there's something that's lost in this round. With a new director at the helm in Mike Mitchell ("Trolls," "Sky High") you sense sometimes that the film is just going through the motions. Still, it has charm and winking fun to spare and kids will likely adore it just as much.

The movie starts by establishing the introduction of a little sister, and all the chaos and destruction and cuteness that implies. Her LEGOs are oversized and adorable, and really throw the more traditional LEGOs of the brother's world for a loop, wrecking all the meticulous buildings of Bricksburg.

An abrupt cut to five years later finds Emmet (Chris Pratt), Wyldstyle/Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), Batman (Will Arnett), Unikitty (Alison Brie), Benny (Charlie Day), MetalBeard (Nick Offerman) and all the favorites of the first living in a "Mad Max" homage they call Apocalypseburg (which they say is "grittier and cooler" than Bricksburg). Emmet is still Emmet, though, bright, cheery and optimistic even while everyone else is brooding and scowling. He even builds a cookie cutter house for himself and Lucy with a picket fence, a front yard, and a toaster room, you know, so they can eat toaster waffles anytime.

Lucy tells Emmett she wishes he could grow up, like her, but before their fight is resolved, aliens from the Systar system attack and take Lucy, Batman, Benny and Unikitty hostage for a marriage ceremony on their planet. Left behind, Emmet goes off to rescue them and teams up with a new character, Rex Dangervest, who is also voiced by Pratt, in a very self-aware riff on his own movie stardom. He's a "galaxy-defending archaeologist, cowboy and raptor trainer" who enjoys showing off his "chiseled features that used to be hidden under baby fat."

Rex's crew is made up entirely of velociraptors, who sound like the Jurassic Park/World velociraptors but here are given subtitles. It's an inspired bit that made me laugh every time. He and the Systar System people like General Mayhem (Stephanie Beatriz) and Queen Watevre Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish) are all delightful, and refreshingly new. But the film does start to drag on just a big, and even feel rather similar to "Toy Story 3" at times. It's not entirely their fault, once the real world element was revealed in the first "LEGO Movie," there are only so many directions you can go and the big stakes that all toys face being forgotten and the threat of being shoved away into storage.

I'm not sure just how much more the studio can mine out of this concept that was once so brilliant. But happily, "The LEGO Movie 2" doesn't destroy everything the first worked so hard to build. It's just trying very hard to be exactly the same.

"The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part," a Warner Bros. Pictures release is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for "for some rude humor." Running time: 106 minutes. Three stars out of four. ***(AP)***

'Untouchable' charts the rise and fall of Harvey Weinstein

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Harvey Weinstein's name was intrinsically linked to the Sundance Film Festival for years, which makes it somewhat fitting that 14 months after his career began to unravel the festival played host to the world premiere of a documentary about his rise and fall.

"I'm so happy it's at Sundance," said "Untouchable" director Ursula Macfarlane, whose film debuted Friday night in Park City. "It's the perfect place for a film about Harvey."

The film is semi-biography of the disgraced mogul, packed with interviews from people who knew him as a concert promoter in Buffalo, those who worked alongside him at Miramax and The Weinstein Company, like Zelda Perkins, his former assistant, director Mark Gill and producer Jack Lechner. It also features a handful of women who came forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct, including actresses Rosanna Arquette, Erika Rosenbaum, Caitlin Dulany and Paz de la Huerta.

"We knew that at the heart of it we wanted to tell some of the accusers' stories, but we couldn't spend the whole film telling those stories because it would probably just be too intense and too much," Macfarlane said. "We also wanted to tell the story of Harvey and to understand what kind of human he was, and why people liked him and why he had this charm and this spell where he could draw people in. We couldn't just say he's a monster and he was raping people for 40 years...We wanted to understand how he got in a position where he was able to do these things."

Weinstein has denied all allegations of non-consensual sex. Friday's premiere occurred hours after Weinstein appeared in a Manhattan courthouse to change his legal team in a rape and sexual assault case .

Former employees in the film describe his charisma and power and how extraordinary it was to be part of Miramax during its salad days, while also detailing his monstrous and abusive tendencies (like throwing marble ashtrays at people's heads) and how he considered himself to be "the sheriff" of New York.

"It's important that it wasn't all sexual but also about the psychological abuse and physical abuse," Macfarlane said. "I get the feeling having met former staffers that there is a sort of PTSD of just having been an employee in the office."

Getting people who worked alongside him to talk was a struggle, however. Macfarlane says the culture of fear still lingers for people who work in the industry. She tried to get Weinstein on camera as well, but he declined multiple requests.

"I'm really proud of the ones we did get on board," she said. "It was very courageous of them to talk about their regrets and what they feel they could have done better."

Kathy Declesis, a former assistant to Weinstein's brother Bob, describes how she quit after being privy to how the company was handling misconduct allegations.

Macfarlane knows she could have continued following the developments in Weinstein's criminal case, but decided to let his downfall be the end of her film.

"You could do the 5-part series in 10 years' time when maybe you would get the interview with Harvey, who knows what would have happened by then, but I think we had an energy and a momentum," she said. "I want people to come out and say 'OK this is very distressing and depressing but what can we do about this?' I want there to be a bigger point to it."

With a record acquisition, 'Late Night' is a Sundance hit

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)— The Emma Thompson and Mindy Kaling comedy "Late Night" is already one of the biggest hits of the 2019 Sundance Film Festival with an acquisition price to match.

Amazon Studios on Saturday purchased the U.S. distribution rights for $13 million, a record for the festival.

"Late Night" follows a veteran talk show host played by Thompson who's facing declining ratings, possible cancellation and a reputation for not liking women. Kaling wrote the script and plays the "diversity hire" in the writer's room who has no qualifications except an undying love for Thompson's character, Katherine Newbury. But she helps shake things up for the show.

"It's really a movie about being a fan," Kaling told The Associated Press. "I've been such a comedy nerd my whole life and I've always felt like on the outside looking in. I had no connections in the business, but I just loved comedy and ... late-night talk shows. So the movie is just really a love letter for people who are fans of something and really want to be part of it, but don't feel like they have any access."

The film, which also stars Reid Scott, Hugh Dancy, Amy Ryan and John Lithgow, premiered Friday night in Park City and immediately became a must-see. Lines stretched around the block for the second screening Saturday morning and no empty seats were left in the massive Eccles Theater, where the audience buzzed about its sale that had just been reported by the trade publication Deadline.

"Late Night" is sleeker than your average Sundance movie and was originally to be made as a studio film, with Paul Feig directing. Delays left Feig unavailable, and Kaling moved on independently. Nisha Ganatra, who had directed an episode of "The Mindy Project," eventually came on to direct.

Amazon's acquisition of "Late Night" is the first major deal out of the 2019 festival, and one of the highest sums ever paid out of Sundance. The record-holder is "Birth of a Nation," which went for $17.5 million for the worldwide rights. "Late Night" beat out Amazon's $12 million deal for "The Big Sick," which went on to become a box office hit, and Netflix's $12.5 million for "Mudbound."

Kaling mined her own experiences in the business both as a boss and a newcomer, and those of others, to tell the story. Her character decides that she can't remember the names of her writers and calls them by numbers one through eight. This, Kaling said, is based on "a very famous comedy person" whom she "will never name."

Kaling wrote the part of Katherine specifically for Thompson, whom she had yet to meet, which she called "one of the stupidest things you can do in comedy."

"I was this creep in my home writing fan fiction for Emma Thompson, who I did not know, hoping that she would read it," Kaling said.

Shia LaBeouf turned rehab into a writing room for new film

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Shia LaBeouf latest film was born in an unusual place—court-ordered rehab.

The actor spent time writing the script for his semi-autobiographical "Honey Boy" while he was being treated for substance abuse after a 2017 arrest.

"He wrote this script in rehab and actually sent me an email from there with the script," said Israeli director Alma Har'el. "So it was pretty mind blowing. I couldn't say no to that."

LaBeouf premiered the film at the Sundance Film Festival on Friday in Park City, Utah. He didn't speak with the media but posed alongside his mother, Shayna Saide, and fellow actors.

The former "Transformers" star plays an alcoholic and abusive father of a child actor, who is played at different ages by Noah Jupe (of "A Quiet Place") and Lucas Hedges ("Boy Erased").

"I think it was emotionally difficult for anybody to do what he did and I think nobody has ever done it before," Har'el said. "He stepped into his own trauma and played his father in it—the most complicated relationship he's ever had, that defined his life more than anything else."

LaBeouf had admired an early documentary by Har'el and they'd developed a working relationship over the years. "We did a music video. He was kind enough to finance my second film when nobody but nobody else would," she said.

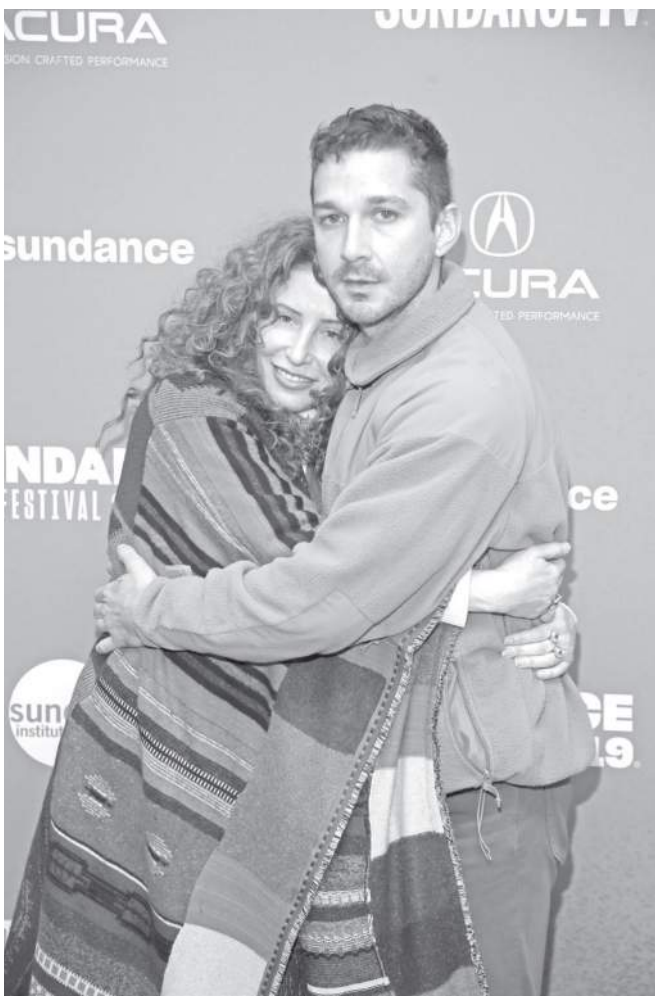
In 2017, LaBeouf pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of obstruction stemming from his attempt to elude police following a vulgar public outburst in Georgia.

He was also ordered to pay $2,680 in fines and fees, perform 100 hours of community service, enroll in anger management counseling and complete a drug and alcohol evaluation. That's when he began on "Honey Boy."

Har'el said the film shines a light on LaBeouf's private struggles.

"It's a story about the things you inherit. Shia definitely inherited a lot of his passion towards acting from his father. But he also inherited other things that he has to deal with for the rest of his life. And he's trying to do it as best as he can. He had to do it in the public eye, unlike many of us. So it's been very challenging. And I think this film really kind of deals with that," she said.

"Honey Boy" is seeking a distributor at Sundance.



AP
Director Alma Har'el, left, and actor Shia LaBeouf pose at the premiere of "Honey Boy" during the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, in Park City, Utah.

Judge approves changes to Weinstein's legal team

AP
Harvey Weinstein, left, leaves court with attorney Ron Sullivan, Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein won a judge's approval Friday to overhaul the defense team in his rape and sexual assault case, replacing his bulldog New York City attorney with a four-person squad that's high on courtroom stars and headline-grabbing cases.

The disgraced Hollywood mogul was in a Manhattan courtroom—along with new lawyers Jose Baez, Ronald Sullivan and Duncan Levin, and ex-lawyer Benjamin Brafman—as Judge James Burke signed off on the switch.

"Welcome to the New York State Supreme Court," Burke told Weinstein's new lawyers.

Weinstein, 66, and Brafman, 70, announced last week that they had "agreed to part ways amicably." The move came a month after they lost a hard-fought bid to get the case thrown out.

Asked as he left court if he was happy with his new lawyers, Weinstein responded "absolutely." Brafman told reporters that he wished Weinstein "the best of luck with his case."

Weinstein's trial is slated for May 6, with a pretrial hearing March 8. Baez said they planned to abide by that schedule.

Weinstein is charged with raping a woman in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. He denies the allegations.

"He is innocent," Baez said after Friday's hearing. "This is what Harvey Weinstein has said to this court, that he is innocent of these charges, when he pled not guilty."

Baez said Weinstein's case "is testing the presumption of innocence in our country" as it unfolds in a post-#MeToo world where rushes to judgment and social media condemnation have become the norm.

"You have a man who needs to stand trial for these specific acts and he should be entitled to the same presumption as everyone else," Baez said. Ignoring due process, he added, is "a threat to all of us."

Weinstein's other new lawyer, Pamela Robillard Mackey, didn't attend Friday's hearing because she was out of the country.

Baez is perhaps the best-known of the four, first gaining fame representing Casey Anthony, the Florida mom whose televised trial in 2011 ended in an acquittal on charges of killing her young daughter.

Rapper Nelly seeks dismissal of lawsuit alleging sex assault

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The rapper Nelly is asking a U.S. court to dismiss a British woman's lawsuit that alleges he sexually assaulted her after a concert in England.

The federal lawsuit was filed in November in St. Louis, the rapper's hometown. The woman accuses Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes Jr., of assaulting her in a dressing room at the concert venue in Essex in December 2017. Nelly hasn't been criminally charged and has denied the allegations.

The woman is identified only as Jane Doe in the lawsuit.

Nelly's attorney, Scott Rosenblum, filed a response to the lawsuit Thursday, arguing that the woman shouldn't be allowed to remain anonymous and "avoid public scrutiny."

The woman alleges that she paid to have her photo taken with the 44-year-old rapper after the concert before he took her to a separate room and sexually assaulted her.

The woman's attorney, Karen Koehler, said the woman reported the incident to police more than a year ago and she believes the investigation is ongoing. Essex police didn't immediately respond to an after-hours phone message from The Associated Press seeking information Friday.

Rosenblum argued that a "cloak of anonymity" for the accuser invites people with personal vendettas "to use the federal court system as a tool to inflict calculated harm against others' reputations" while protecting themselves from scrutiny "that false accusations properly risk and invite."

The lawsuit is the second such case filed against the rapper. In September, Nelly settled a lawsuit filed by a woman who alleged he raped her on his tour bus in suburban Seattle.

Police in Washington arrested Nelly in October 2017, but prosecutors didn't file charges, citing a lack of cooperation by the accuser. Rosenblum said those accusations were fabricated.

Impact of depression on family and friends is focus of survey

DEAR READERS: The departments of psychiatry and medicine at Tufts Medical Center want to learn more about the impact caregiving has on family members and friends of people who have been diagnosed with depression or other illnesses.

Because family members and friends play a large part in providing care while also balancing jobs and other responsibilities, the physicians and research scientists at Tufts are asking you, my readers, to share the impact caregiving has on different aspects of your life, including your ability to work and your health and well-being. This information will be used to improve services to caregivers and the people they support.

You may be eligible to participate if you are a:

■ caregiver for a relative or friend with depression or other illnesses,

■ person who has depression that has not improved with treatment,

■ person who is employed and not involved in caregiving.

If you are interested in participating in this important study, please visit bewellatwork.org/NCS/. Participation in this study is voluntary and anonymous. It involves answering a brief set of questions and, if you are eligible to participate, completing an anonymous survey. The entire study is conducted on the internet and is completely private. In the past, readers have generously helped by sharing your experiences, and I hope you will do so again.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 7 1/2 months pregnant with my first child, and my husband and I are happily awaiting our baby's arrival. I am fretting over something I need some help figuring out. My mother-in-law is a serious smoker. She smokes in her home, in her car and right before getting into anyone's car or leaving home. She reeks of smoke all the time.

I do not want my baby around a smoker, but of course, I want our baby to bond with Grandma. She's oblivious to the dangers of second- and third-hand smoke and laughs it off. My husband says we can't make her stop smoking, and he doesn't want to talk with her about it. I am adamant about our baby having a smoke-free environment. What do I do?

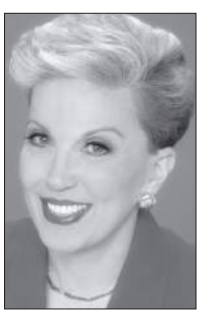
PROTECTIVE FUTURE MOMMY

DEAR MOMMY: Your tobacco-addicted mother-in-law is not going to quit smoking. Your husband doesn't want to talk to his mother about it because he knows it will go nowhere. That leaves you.

Unfortunately, your child is going to have to live in a world in which there are people who smoke. While you may be able to minimize his/her exposure, you cannot guarantee that from childhood to adulthood your child's environment will be entirely smoke-free. Because you are adamant—for good reason—about your baby having a smoke-free environment, you will have to insist, with your husband present, that Grandma bond with her grandchild in your home or some other smoke-free environment. Period.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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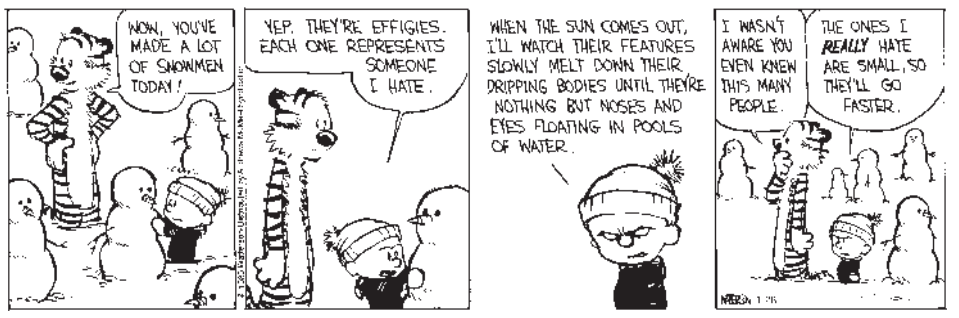
Pastimes

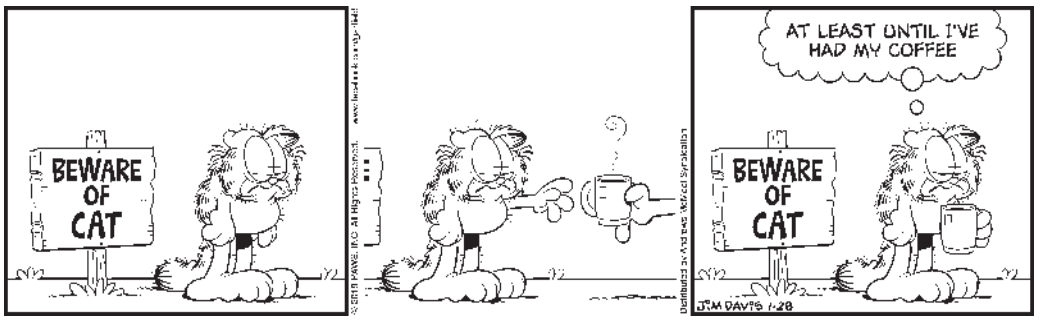
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WOW, YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF SNOWMEN TODAY!
YEP. THEY'RE EFFIGIES. EACH ONE REPRESENTS SOMEONE I HATE.
WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT, I'LL WATCH THEIR FEATURES SLOWLY MELT DOWN THEIR DRIPPING BODIES UNTIL THEY'RE NOTHING BUT NOSES AND EYES FLOATING IN POOLS OF WATER.
I WASN'T AWARE YOU EVEN KNEW THIS MANY PEOPLE.
THE ONES I REALLY HATE ARE SMALL, SO THEY'LL GO FASTER.

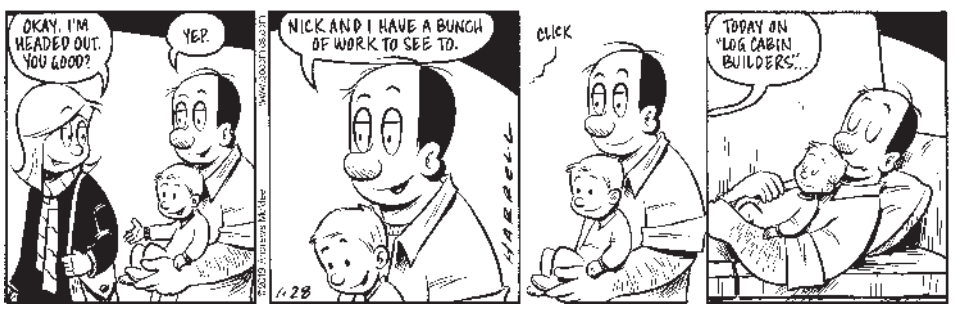
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Egyptian deity
5 Piercing tool
8 Probability
12 Lion's share
13 Hot tub
14 Stench
15 Unoriginal one
16 Home to the Buccaneers
18 Pizza topping
20 Wine container
21 Off-white
23 Dict. info
24 Spoofs
28 Pharmaceutical
31 Playwright Levin
32 Leg bone
34 Mentalist's gift
35 Rhett's last word
37 Mildew cause
39 Scratch
41 Valentine flower
42 Molds
45 Foliage
49 Marshmallow toaster
51 Carousel, for one
52 "I cannot tell —"
53 Pair
54 Aspiring atty.'s exam
55 Fork setting
56 Still, in verse
57 Orange veggies

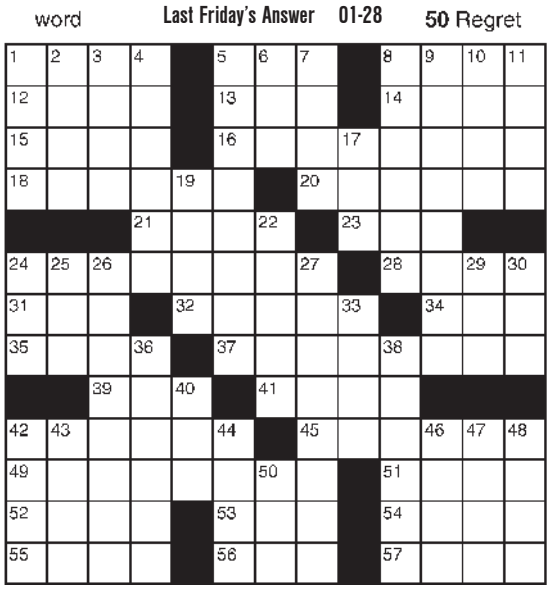
DOWN

1 Apple computer
2 Former frosh
3 "Got it"
4 Meryl of film
5 Space rock
6 New Deal agcy.
7 Gentle soul
8 Gave a speech
9 Owing nothing
10 Transaction
11 Terrier type
17 Group of seals
19 Highlander
22 Release a deadbolt
24 Cover
25 Altar constellation
26 Abba-inspired hit musical
27 Buck
29 Constitution letters
30 Family docs
33 Church section
36 Caught some z's
38 Almost
40 Ump
42 "Lion King" villain
43 Saintly ring
44 Faction
46 Travel permit
47 Dutch cheese
48 Collections
50 Regret

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	D	S		A	B	L	E		S	A	L	T
.	I	F		T	O	I	I		C	H	A	I
A	S	A	W	H	O	L	E		R	I	D	S
S	O	R	E	E	N		G	E	E			
			A	N	S		A	S	W	E	L	L
C	A	P	H	A		U	N	E		Y	E	E
A	H	O	Y		I	S	T		B	E	N	C
S	A	S		G	M	A		C	E	D	A	R
A	S	E	V	E	R		M	R	I			
			I	L	E		E	U	G	E	N	E
I	M	A	C		A	S	N	E	E	D	E	D
R	I	C	H		D	U	S	T		E	R	A
A	C	H	Y		Y	E	A	S		N	O	M

Last Friday's Answer 01-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 21; Elijah Wood, 38; Sarah McLachlan, 51; Frank Darabont, 60.

Happy Birthday: You can achieve what you set out to by using intellect and experience. Think matters through and be willing to adapt and compromise. Working with what you've got and sticking to a budget will be important factors in reaching your goals this year. Don't lose sight of personal needs. Reward yourself and those who love and support you. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 26, 32, 43, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Use your intelligence to deflect adversity and those trying to hold you back. Opportunity is within reach, but it won't come find you. Look at what's available, and make good use of what you encounter. Be open to suggestions. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A steady pace will get you where you want to go. Refuse to let anyone convince you that you should follow instead of leading or taking your own path. Be true to yourself, your beliefs and to the ones you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look at the fine print before you make a decision or offer your signature or a promise. An opportunity is only as good as how you make use of what you have to work with. Use common sense and experience. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Go with the flow and see where it takes you. Let your intuition be your guide and your ability to reason be your safety net. A creative idea put into motion will attract interest, support and a worthwhile partnership. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make choices that will help you improve your life as well as your health and emotional well-being. Refuse to let someone play emotional mind games with you. Look for equality in relationships. Romance and personal growth are highlighted. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Communication will help you decipher what's true as well as what's best for you. Look at the facts and ask pertinent questions to reveal the truth. Don't let anger set in when intelligence and common sense are what's required. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look inward and evaluate your life -- past, present and future. Once you are clear about what you want, it will be easy to mark out a path that will help you reach your goals. It's up to you to make things happen. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn all you can before you start something new. Don't rely on someone who uses emotional tactics to get his or her way. Focus on what you have to offer and how best to use your skills. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll crave change, but before you proceed, consider the consequences. It's important that you do what's best and right for everyone. Romantic encounters along with physical fitness, home improvements and updating your appearance will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't alter something in your life for the wrong reason. Be wary of unpredictable individuals who are pushing for unnecessary change or doing something that isn't logical. Rely on your insight to help you make the best and the right choice. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Say what's on your mind to save yourself some time. Implement lifestyle changes that will encourage you to be fit and healthy. Physical improvements will help you excel. Walk away from abusive or controlling situations and people. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do what you can to help others, but don't go into debt or try to buy love. Temptation will cloud your vision if you let your emotions overrule common sense. Say no to anyone enticing you with indulgence or bad habits. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are smart, courageous and enthusiastic. You are loyal and flexible.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	8			6			3	
		2	5		1	4		9
	5			8			7	
2	3						9	
		7	3		9	1		
	4						6	2
	1			9			5	
7		5	6		8	9		
3			2				1	7

Difficulty Level ★ 1/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	9	1	6	3	8	7	5	2
8	7	5	9	4	2	3	6	1
3	6	2	1	5	7	8	9	4
7	4	3	2	8	6	9	1	5
2	8	9	4	1	5	6	7	3
1	5	6	7	9	3	2	4	8
5	2	4	8	6	9	1	3	7
9	1	8	3	7	4	5	2	6
6	3	7	5	2	1	4	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BANANA MUFFINS Solution: 11 letters

S	S	L	W	O	B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	Y	R
O	T	F	L	U	F	F	Y	R	I	T	I	N	S	E
U	U	A	T	S	L	O	V	E	N	S	N	C	N	H
R	N	T	O	A	B	F	S	T	E	T	R	E	A	T
C	E	F	V	D	L	R	I	T	S	U	T	G	P	E
R	T	O	K	O	E	R	F	A	M	S	W	T	Y	G
E	R	L	U	T	N	L	T	B	I	E	L	O	D	O
A	I	R	B	E	D	S	L	O	I	A	G	E	R	T
M	I	N	I	E	E	E	M	O	S	U	G	A	R	G
I	A	T	T	W	D	I	S	T	R	E	S	S	E	D
X	O	H	E	S	X	R	N	T	K	C	A	N	S	S
T	C	G	L	E	N	E	M	A	S	H	S	G	T	Y
U	O	I	S	D	E	K	A	B	G	T	G	A	A	A
R	C	L	C	R	E	A	M	C	H	E	E	S	E	R
E	E	F	F	O	C	B	R	E	A	D	V	S	H	T

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Baked, Bakeries, Batter, Bite, Blended, Blueberry, Bowl, Bread, Butter, Cocoa, Coffee, Cream Cheese, Crumble, Desserts, Eggs, Flavor, Flour, Fluffy, Grow, Heat, Light, Mash, Milk, Mini, Mixes, Mixture, Moist, Nuts, Oven, Pans, Rise, Rolled Oats, Salt, Sift, Slice, Snack, Soft, Sour Cream, Stir, Sugar, Sweet, Teas, Tins, Together, Trays, Treat, Vegan, Yogurt

Last Friday's Answer: Mistaken

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rosemarie Estrella Penaroyo, Petitioner, vs. Antonio Jose C. Arriola, Respondent, : FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-001 : **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505932 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2019.
/s/
Clerk of Court

Are You The Owner Of One Of These Trucks?

Year / Make / Model	VIN
2006 Mazda B4000 pick-up	4F4ZR47E96PM01415
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D06PM01652
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D96PM01790
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D36PM02109
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D66PM02627
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16DX6PM02656

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  - o Have the ability to work independently and be a self-starter.
  - o Be competent with Word, Excel and PowerPoint and with website and social media management and editing.
  - o Be able to organize, compile & interpret data
  - o Have reliable transportation during working hours
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Find today's solution in classified section

To teammates, Brady stands alone as he chases 6th ring

AP

In this Jan. 20, 2019, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrates with his teammates after the AFC Championship NFL football game, in Kansas City, Mo. With five rings, Tom Brady has already established himself as the most-decorated quarterback in Super Bowl history. He now has a chance to distinguish himself among all players. A Super Bowl win over the Rams would give the 41-year-old a sixth ring, breaking a tie with Hall of Fame defensive end Charles Haley for the most all-time.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Seventeen years ago, Tom Brady was 24 years old and in his second NFL season when he led the Patriots to a last-second victory over the St. Louis Rams for New England's first Super Bowl title.

Four rings later, Brady will arrive in Atlanta for the Patriots' Super Bowl matchup with the Los Angeles Rams having already established himself as the most-decorated Super Bowl quarterback in league history.

But as Brady prepares to play in his ninth Super Bowl, he will have another chance to do something no other NFL player has done.

If New England beats Los Angeles, the 41-year-old quarterback will break a tie with Hall of Fame defensive end Charles Haley and become the first player to win six rings.

But to his coaches, teammates and admirers across the sporting world, he already stands alone.

Known to Brady affectionately as "Jules," receiver Julian Edelman called it an honor to be a part of the quarterback's career.

"He's a really good football player," Edelman said. "The best. And he goes out and he consistently proves it."

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski has caught more passes from Brady than any other player and will play alongside him in a Super Bowl for the fourth time. He said Brady's approach has been the same since their first practice together back in 2010.

"The guy is just so precise with everything. Just the way he is out on the field, the way he prepares," Gronkowski said. "You know every single time you're going to get the best out of him no matter what the situations are."

After New England's divisional-round win over the Chargers, Brady was openly miffed about what he perceived as pessimism outside of the Patriots' locker room about their chances of reaching a third straight Super Bowl following a regular season which they started 1-2 and lost five games.

"I know everybody thinks we suck and, you know, we can't win any games," Brady said. "We'll see. It'll be fun."

A week later, Brady led the Patriots on a winning drive in overtime to beat the Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC championship game—his 12th such drive in the postseason in the fourth-quarter or overtime.

The next day he posted a video on Instagram of himself and Gronkowski walking to the team bus after the game. Both are smiling and Gronkowski flashes his AFC championship T-shirt.

It was the kind humble brag that Brady has steered away from in the past. But this postseason he has been more open with his emotions and acknowledged after the AFC title win he was "as excited as I have been in a long time."

"When you have 70,000 people cheering against you, it is pretty sweet when you win on the road," Brady said.

On Twitter, congratulations came from all corners of sports.

Among them was one from Paul Pierce , who helped lead the Celtics to the NBA championship in 2008. "There's aliens there's Pegasus and there's Tom Brady," Pierce wrote.

Left tackle Trent Brown is in his first season in New England after being traded to the Patriots last April. He said sharing the huddle with Brady has lived up to his expectations.

"There's one word, G.O.A.T. That's it," Brown said. "He's one of those great leaders and it trickles down to the rest of the team."

Brown is a member of a starting lineup on offense that, excluding Brady, has an average age of 27.

Brady's continued ability to lead and inspire teammates more than a decade his junior is a unique skill, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said.

"He communicates well with every player," McDaniels said. "One of the things that's always impressed me is how he's one of the first guys in the building to know a new person's name, which speaks to how important that is to him, to introduce himself to somebody and also get to know that person, whether it be a practice squad player, a rookie, whatever it is."

Brady's introductions to new players is always the same. At some point after they arrive Brady seeks them out, walks up and says plainly, "Hi, I'm Tom Brady."

Linebacker Kyle Van Noy said he still remembers his reaction to hearing those words.

With 44 newbies, Pro Bowl could be more intense than usual

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Chicago Bears safety and Pro Bowl newcomer Eddie Jackson posed the same question to several veterans this week: What's the tempo of practices and the game?

"They told me, 'If you go out there and pull a hamstring, you're going too hard,'" Jackson said.

It wasn't exactly the definitive answer Jackson was looking for, but it gave him some insight into what to expect and how to perform in the league's annual all-star event Sunday.

There's no guarantee everyone else will play at a similar pace.

With 44 players appearing in the Pro Bowl for the first time—half of the AFC and NFC rosters—it's anyone's guess how intense the game will be. It has looked more like two-hand touch than hard-nosed football in recent years, drawing some criticism.

But last year's event was far from a laugher.

The AFC rallied in the rain, overcoming a 20-3 deficit and winning 24-23 at Camping World Stadium in Orlando. Players celebrated wildly on the sideline, in the end zone and in the locker room, even chanting about doubling their paychecks.

"Everyone knows the slogan 'money talks,'" Philadelphia Eagles offensive tackle Lane Johnson said. "Well, it'll probably be talking during the game."

The winners earn $67,000 each, $8,000 more than the players who lose the Super Bowl a week later. The Pro Bowl losers get $39,000 apiece.

The offensive and defensive MVPs each land a luxury vehicle, a perk New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley has made clear to teammates he covets.

"I know for a fact that Saquon is aware that there's an MVP car that's available," Giants teammate and safety/special teams ace Mike Thomas said. "I expect guys will turn it up later in the game. But knowing we're competing for MVP, how soon will it start?

"I'm still trying to figure that out. I asked. I said, 'What's the etiquette? What's the protocol for this? Guys have given different answers. I'm just going to have to feel it out. Hopefully we go over it a little bit."

Rams-Saints rematch would mean pricey Super Bowl delay

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Redoing last weekend's controversial NFC title game between the Los Angeles Rams and New Orleans Saints would mean a pricey delay of the upcoming Super Bowl, the NFL said Friday.

In a legal filing, NFL Chief Financial Officer Joseph Siclare said replaying even a few minutes of the NFC championship game because of a missed passed interference call would force a delay for an event that demands an investment of "more than $100 million," the New Orleans Advocate reported .

Siclare's sworn affidavit was submitted by the NFL to get one of two pending lawsuits over officiating moved from state civil court to New Orleans federal court.

The filing marks the league's first formal response to a lawsuit by a pair of ticketholders over the infamous "no call" that ended the Saints' Super Bowl run last Sunday.

The league cited a federal law that allows a defendant to automatically remove a state class-action lawsuit to federal court when the parties are from different states and the amount of the damages sought by the plaintiffs exceeds $5 million.

According to Siclare, a demand by the plaintiffs for the league to issue full refunds to 72,475 ticket holders well exceeds that benchmark on its own, as the average ticket price for the game hovered around $230. That adds up to more than $16 million in ticket proceeds.

But the far bigger cost, Siclare suggested, would be if the Feb. 3 Super Bowl is delayed by a court in order to rewind the clock and replay all or a portion of the NFC title game— a result urged by the plaintiffs and much of "Who Dat Nation," which is also listed as a plaintiff.

"The Super Bowl, the NFL's premiere event, is a carefully planned and enormously expensive undertaking, with preparations carefully sequenced," from logistics to producing a "full-blown music concert at halftime," Siclare wrote.

While the NFL has remained publicly silent about the controversial no-call, the league said Friday it had fined Rams defensive back Nickell Robey-Coleman $26,739 for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Saints receiver Tommylee Lewis — a second infraction that went unflagged on the same play.

Saints head coach Sean Payton has said a league official admitted to him immediately after the game that both penalties should have been called on the play.

Meanwhile, a hearing sought by the two plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Tommy Badeux and Candis Lambert, that was scheduled for Monday was declared moot by Friday's filing.

It's no surprise that the NFL would seek to take the case out of the hands of a local New Orleans judge in favor of a federal jurist, said local attorney Glenn McGovern.

"There's a perception by some people that federal court is fairer than state court," McGovern said. "All big corporations feel more comfortable in federal court than state court."

Osaka wins second major, top ranking

AP
Japan's Naomi Osaka makes a forehand return to Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic during the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — So close to victory, Naomi Osaka suddenly was letting the Australian Open final slip away. Three championship points? Gone. A sizable lead? Soon all gone, too.

She was playing poorly. She yelled at herself. Slammed a ball. Tugged at her visor's pink brim. Trudged to the locker room between sets with a towel draped over her head.

And then, after returning to the court, Osaka turned it all around just as quickly as she had dropped 23 of 27 points. Refocusing and reasserting herself, Osaka edged Petra Kvitova 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-4 on Saturday night to win the Australian Open for a second consecutive Grand Slam title.

"I felt like I didn't want to have any regrets," Osaka said. "I think if I didn't regroup after the second set, then I would have looked back on this match and probably cried or something."

On top of that, Osaka will rise to No. 1 in the rankings.

"Amazing achievement," two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova said. "Definitely she is a great one. We'll see what the future will bring."

Osaka added the Australian Open trophy to the one she collected in a U.S. Open final last September that forever will be remembered for the way runner-up Serena Williams was docked a game after arguing with the chair umpire.

Unlike that day, there was no jeering from the confused crowd. No controversy. No chaos. No sharing the spotlight.

Clearly marking herself as tennis' bright new star, Osaka is the first woman to win two major championships in a row since Williams picked up four straight in 2014-15.

Almost didn't happen.

Osaka held three match points in the second set at 5-3, love-40 as Kvitova served. But Osaka couldn't close it out. Instead, she completely lost her way.

That allowed Kvitova to come back and make a match of it, reeling off five games in a row to take the second set and go up 1-0 in the third.

At that point, Kvitova would say later, she figured it was going to keep going her way.

"In the end," she said, "it wasn't."

After Kvitova double-faulted to offer up a break point at 1-all, Osaka converted it with a cross-court backhand winner. There was still more work to be done, of course, and some additional drama when it began raining at the changeover right before Osaka tried to serve for the match at 5-4 in the third set.

This time, Osaka would not falter. She would not let this lead disappear.

"I knew that Petra couldn't keep it up for that long if Naomi could just manage those emotions," said Osaka's coach, Sascha Bajin, "and she did that beautifully."

Osaka was born in Japan—her mother is Japanese, her father is Haitian—and she moved to New York at age 3. Now she's based in Florida and has dual citizenship. Osaka already was the first player representing Japan—female or male—to win a Grand Slam singles title. Now she also is the first to top the WTA or ATP rankings.

On a somewhat cloudy, rather comfortable evening, with only a slight breeze and the temperature around 75 degrees (25 Celsius), both women hit the ball as hard as can be. Exchanges were mostly at the baseline and filled with flat, powerful groundstrokes that barely cleared the net and made retrieving and replying as much about reflexes as anything.

Here's one measure of how even it was: Each finished with 33 winners.

Points were swift and blunt; of 86 in the first set, only four lasted nine strokes or more. There was plenty of strong serving, clean hitting and good movement.

It was Osaka who was the first to get ahead, tearing through the tiebreaker by grabbing five points in a row—four via winners—to go up 5-1. When Kvitova sailed a backhand wide moments later, ceding a set for the first time all tournament, Osaka pumped her fist and screamed, "Come on!"

How pivotal was that moment? Kvitova had won her last 22 Grand Slam matches after winning the first set. Osaka, meanwhile, entered the day having won 59 matches anywhere after going up by a set.

When Osaka broke to lead 3-2 in the second set, and then got to 5-3, the outcome seemed to be a foregone conclusion. Turned out, that wasn't the case. Not at all.

All that really matters, of course, is that Osaka righted herself in time to win.

"It didn't really take that long," she said. "I didn't have a choice.

At 21, Osaka is the youngest No. 1 in nearly a decade; Caroline Wozniacki was 20 when she first ascended to that spot in 2010.

53rd matchup for Djokovic, Nadal

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—It was fascinating to hear Novak Djokovic explain what it will be like to face Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final.

"The intensity that he brings on the court is immense," Djokovic said. "Without a doubt, probably the most intense tennis player that I have witnessed and played against."

Hmmm.

"It makes you be alert, so to say, from the very first point," Djokovic said. "He doesn't allow you to kind of ease your way into the match."

All sounds rather similar to the way someone might describe competing against Djokovic.

When the No. 1-ranked Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal meet Sunday night at Rod Laver Arena for the tournament championship, there will be differences, right down to the most obvious: Djokovic is a righty, Nadal a lefty. The similarities are far more compelling, among them an ability to go from suffocating defense to "How did he put the ball there?!" offense by aggressively staking out territory at the baseline, and an unwavering commitment to playing every point with full effort and desire, as though the ultimate outcome of the match hinged on each racket swing.

This matchup is their 53rd, the most between two men the professional era. Djokovic leads 27-25.

It is their 26th on a hard court. Djokovic leads 18-7.

It is their 15th at a major, equaling the record. Nadal leads 9-5.

It is their eighth in a Grand Slam final. Nadal leads 4-3.

It is their second in an Australian Open final. Djokovic won a five-setter in 2012 that lasted 5 hours, 53 minutes, the longest Slam final ever.

"Nadal has historically, throughout my life and career, been the greatest rival that I ever played against, on all the surfaces. Some matches that we had against each other were a great turning point in my career. I feel they have made me rethink my game," Djokovic said.

"I had some disappointing moments where I lost to him. ... I won, also, some great matches. Those kind of encounters have also made me the player I am today, without a doubt," the 31-year-old Serb said. "These are the kind of matches that you live for, finals of Slams, playing the greatest rivals at their best. What more can you ask for?"

Djokovic is to collect a record seventh Australian Open title, breaking a tie with Roy Emerson and Roger Federer.

That would lift his Grand Slam haul to 15, pushing Djokovic one ahead of Pete Sampras.

The only men with more? Federer is at 20, Nadal at 17.

For Nadal, this represents a chance to cut into Federer's lead and become the third man with at least two championships at each major. The 32-year-old Spaniard's previous title in Australia came in 2009; he's lost three other finals, while Djokovic is 6-0.

Both were outstanding in the semifinals. Nadal beat 20-year-old Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; Djokovic defeated 24-year-old Lucas Pouille 6-0, 6-2, 6-2.

Tsitsipas on Nadal: "Just has a talent to make you play bad."

Pouille on Djokovic: "Not so many players can beat him, for sure. Maybe one or two."

He put Nadal in that category, and it's easy to see why. A tweaked serve and that lasso of a forehand are making Nadal as dangerous as ever; he hasn't dropped a set in Melbourne.

And to think: He is coming off a series of injuries on unforgiving hard courts.

Nadal retired from his Australian Open quarterfinal last year because of a right leg problem; stopped again during his U.S. Open semifinal in September with pain in his right knee; had offseason surgery on his right ankle; pulled out of a tuneup tournament this month because of a bothersome thigh.

He was rusty. He acknowledged being a "little bit worried" because of "issue after issue."

"After four, five months without action at all," Nadal said, "then, of course, you know that you can come here and anything can happen, no?"

Djokovic dealt with his own health scare: A sore right elbow that cost him the last half of 2017 and contributed to a fourth-round loss in Melbourne a year ago before he had an operation.

Like Nadal, Djokovic is once again at the top of his game.

They're ready to resume their rivalry.

"Hopefully," Djokovic said, "we're all going to have a good time."

Warriors beat Celtics, get 10th straight victory

BOSTON (AP)—After beating the Lakers without LeBron James and the Wizards without John Wall, the Golden State Warriors were eager to test themselves against a full-strength opponent.

The Boston Celtics were just what they were looking for.

Kevin Durant had 33 points and nine rebounds, Stephen Curry scored 24 points and Klay Thompson had 21, including two key free throws, for Golden State on Saturday night to beat Boston 115-111 and give the Warriors their 10th win in a row.

"We needed this game," said Steve Kerr, who became the fastest coach in NBA history to 300 victories. "We needed to be challenged and we were challenged big-time and it could have gone either way."

Kyrie Irving scored 32 points with 10 assists and Al Horford had 22 points and 13 rebounds for Boston, which had won five straight and 10 in a row at home.

In a game that featured 21 lead changes, the Warriors went ahead 113-111 with 47 seconds left on Thompson's only free throws of the game and held on as Boston had three chances to tie it or take the lead. Marcus Smart rimmed out on a 3-pointer, Irving airballed a fadeaway from the baseline and Marcus Morris was short on a 3.

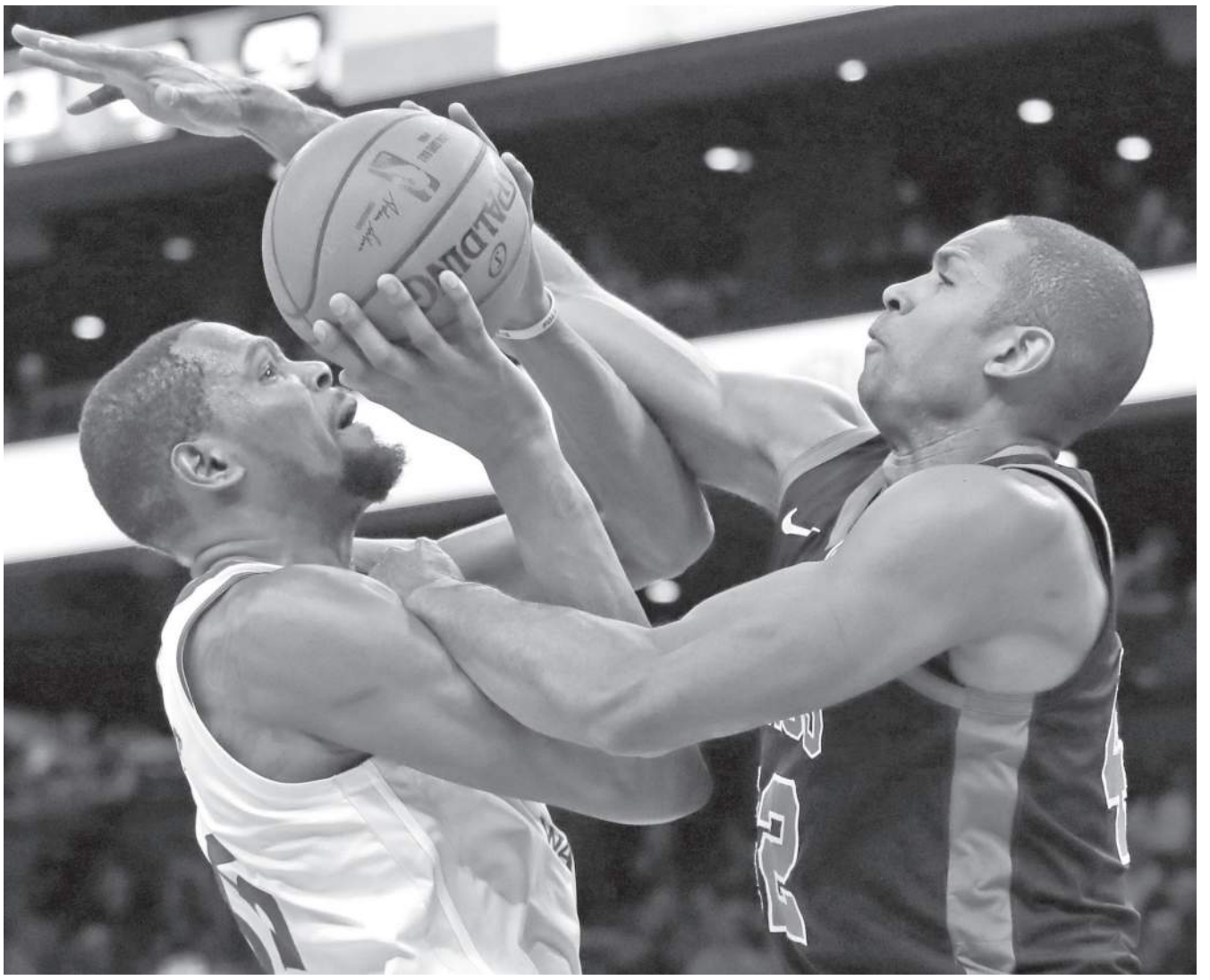
Draymond Green missed two free throws, but he got his own rebound and then Curry made a pair of foul shots with 6.2 seconds left to ice it.

"I guess it's just good for us to come in here and grind out a 'W,'" Durant said. "We'll forget about it in the morning, but for tonight everybody felt good coming in here, knowing we haven't played with this type of intensity in a long time, especially on the road. It was good to feel that. We know that this is different than any other type game, especially with what this team is building."

The matchup of the two-time defending NBA champions and one of the top contenders in the Eastern Conference had a sold-out TD Garden standing for the final two minutes. The crowd included several New England Patriots on the eve of their departure for the Super Bowl, including owner Bob Kraft and twin defensive backs Jason and Devin McCourty.

"Two great teams going at it," Curry said. "We bring the best out of each other."

Curry was scoreless in the first quarter, but hit five 3-pointers in five minutes in the second to help Golden State open a 56-47 lead. The Celtics scored the next 10 points to erase it.



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, left, is fouled by Boston Celtics center Al Horford as he goes up to shoot in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, in Boston.

Asked about Curry not being "too active" the rest of the game, Celtics coach Brad Stevens said: "The second-quarter spurt that he went on really hurt us."

Trail Blazers 120, Hawks 111

In Oregon, with the Trail Blazers playing without All-Star guard Damian Lillard, CJ McCollum reminded everybody just how good Portland's other guard are.

McCollum had 28 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, leading the Trail Blazers to a win over the Atlanta Hawks.

"CJ was terrific, maybe his best all-around game of the year," Trail Blazers coach Terry Stotts said.

Seth Curry, who got the start in Lillard's place, scored 22 points. Maurice Harkless also had a season-high 16 points to go with five rebounds.

"Without (Lillard) out there I was just talking a little bit more, initiate the offense and tried to keep everybody involved," McCollum said.

Trae Young had 30 points and eight assists to lead the Hawks.

McCollum had 10 points and three assists in the third quarter to give Portland a three-point lead heading to the fourth. Atlanta pulled to 101-100 with 7:17 remaining, but Curry scored 11 points during the Trail Blazers' 13-0 game-closing run.

"I was trying to get (Curry) some shots, he's a very great shooter, a guy who can read on-ball and off-ball screens," McCollum said. "I tried to take advantage of their defensive lapses, they were paying a lot of attention to me."

Nuggets 126, 76ers 100

In Denver, If Nikola Jokic was fired up over his one-game suspension, it was hard to tell.

"He came back and did what we expect him to do," coach Michael Malone said after Jokic's seventh triple-double of the season led the Denver Nuggets past the short-handed Philadelphia 76ers.

"He was a huge part of our attack and made the right play time and time again," Malone said after watching Jokic score 32 points, pull down 18 rebounds and dish out 10 assists. "He's proven why he's an All-NBA type player. Thank goodness he's in a Nuggets uniform."

The 76ers gave leading scorer Joel Embiid the night off, robbing fans of a Jokic-Embiid showdown but allowing their star to get a six-day midseason break before their next game Tuesday night against the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Spurs 126, Pelicans 114

In New Orleans, with a sore left wrist taking away half his offensive game, LaMarcus Aldridge could have been another injured player sitting out.

After testing his wrist in warmups, he decided to play and had a team-high 28 points and 12 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a victory over the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans.

"I wanted to play," Aldridge said after getting his 15th double-double of the season. "We've been up and down—more down—lately, so I just wanted to play and give us a better chance to win."

He pleaded with coach Gregg Popovich to let him play, especially with San Antonio's leading scorer, DeMar De Rozan sidelined with a sore knee. Popovich said he wanted to rest Aldridge because of the injury he sustained in a 122-120 loss at Philadelphia on Wednesday night, but Aldridge insisted on playing.

"He showed a lot of heart," Popovich said. "He took one for the team tonight."

Rudy Gay had 22 points, including 11 in the third quarter, and 11 rebounds to help San Antonio snap a two-game skid.

Aldridge had 12 points during a decisive spurt in the third quarter as the Spurs used a 25-12 run to extend a three-point halftime lead to 85-69.

Grizzlies 106, Pacers 103

In Memphis, staring at an eight-game losing streak and a week of distraction from trade rumblings, the Memphis brought things back to simplicity.

And the approach was successful for the struggling squad.

Mike Conley had 22 points and 11 assists, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 20 points and Memphis beat the Indiana Pacers, bringing brief relief to the Grizzlies troubles that stretch back to late December.

"I thought everybody just put everything aside tonight," Conley said of the change in mindset. "We said before the game: 'Just go out there and play basketball. It's just basketball.' And that's what we did."

LeBron back in full-contact drills, but will miss 16th game

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—LeBron James is back in full-contact defensive drills in practice with the Los Angeles Lakers for the first time since the four-time NBA MVP strained his groin.

James will miss his 16th consecutive game Sunday when the Lakers host the Phoenix Suns.

The 34-year-old James has been out since Christmas due to the most significant injury of his 16-year NBA career. He had never missed more than 13 games in an entire season.

James practiced with his teammates Saturday at their training complex, but won't return this weekend. The Lakers' next game after that is Tuesday at home against Philadelphia.

James was selected this week to be a starter and a team captain in the NBA All-Star Game in Charlotte on Feb. 17.

Oladipo to undergo season-ending surgery

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, the Indiana Pacers made official what many feared Wednesday night: All-Star guard Victor Oladipo will require season-ending surgery after suffering a non-contact right knee injury.

Oladipo was carried out on a stretcher after injuring the knee on an awkward fall against the Toronto Raptors. The Pacers immediately feared a season-ending injury, per ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, and news came down on Thursday afternoon that Oladipo had ruptured the quad tendon in his right knee.

The fall came when Oladipo tried to disrupt an outlet pass to Pascal Siakam in transition during the second quarter. When Oladipo couldn't get up, his Pacers teammates immediately called for an athletic trainer, who covered Oladipo's leg with a towel. Eventually, Oladipo exited on a stretcher while acknowledging an ovation from the Indiana crowd.

Following the game, the Pacers said Oladipo had suffered a "serious injury" to his knee and would undergo an MRI on Thursday for a full diagnosis. That diagnosis did not return encouraging results.

Oladipo entered Wednesday leading the Pacers in scoring with 19.2 points per game, while also contributing 5.7 rebounds and 5.3 assists per game. He is a devastating loss for the Pacers, who currently hold the third-best record in the Eastern Conference.

The Pacers managed to pull out 110-106 win over the East-leading Raptors on Wednesday, thanks to a 23-point, 15-rebound night from Thaddeus Young and five other players who scored in double digits.

Rose leads at Torrey Pines; Tiger way behind

SAN DIEGO (AP)— Justin Rose tracked the flight of his 3-wood until he saw it splash into the pond guarding the 18th green at Torrey Pines. He walked a few steps and pulled his cap down over his eyes, the look of a man who had just made a crucial mistake at the wrong time.

Not really.

This was only Saturday.

Rose wasn't happy that he finished up the third round with a bogey at the Farmers Insurance Open, but it didn't take away from a game so strong that having his lead cut in half over the closing five holes was no cause for alarm.

Even with three penalty shots on the day, Rose still managed a 3-under 69 and a three-shot lead, the same margin with which he began the day.

He's playing that well.

Adam Scott had the low round of the week on the South course with a 65, which pulled him within three shots and it still felt like a consolation.

"As good as I'm playing, I feel like I'm a long way behind," Scott said.

Rose had six birdies and an eagle that more than atoned for his mistakes. Even with two double bogeys and the bogey on the par-5 18th, he still matched the 54-hole tournament record at 18-under 198, last set by Tiger Woods in 2008.

As for that bold attempt to go for the green?

He had an 8-iron from the first cut of rough to play it safe until he saw Ryan Palmer comfortably reach the green.

AP

Tiger Woods watches his second shot on the 13th hole of the South Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course during the third round of the Farmers Insurance golf tournament Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, in San Diego.

Rose went to the 3-wood, knowing it could come out heavy, and that's what it did.

"There was a long way to go," Rose said. "So I wasn't really playing with the lead in mind at that point. If I was running 30th in the tournament, that was a shot I would probably hit. But yeah, it didn't work out."

Jon Rahm had a 68 and was four shots behind, followed by 22-year-old Doug Ghim, the former No. 1 amateur playing this week on a sponsor's exemption. Ghim shot a 67.

Woods had the biggest gallery and didn't make much noise. Woods birdied three of his last five holes to salvage a 71, leaving him 13 shots behind and in search of moral victories in his 2019 debut.

He was at 5-under 211.

"I think if I can get to double digits (under par), it would be just a nice way to end the week," Woods said. "I've got to play a little better than I have."

Scott was the only player to give Rose a serious run, and it didn't feel like much.

Starting the day seven shots behind, Scott opened with an 8-foot birdie and then holed out from 103 yards for eagle on the next hole. He added four birdies in a five-hole stretch at the turn and delivered the low round of the tournament on the South course.

And he still wondered if it was enough.

"It's almost all up to him tomorrow," Scott about Rose, his neighbor in the Bahamas. "So that's no pressure on me. But this is not a course I can go out and just fire at pins. It's too easy to make big errors. I'll just have to chip away and see if he can do the same."

Rose made plenty of errors, though he atoned for them with plenty of exquisite shots.

After starting with two birdies through three holes, Rose pulled his shot from a fairway bunker on the fourth hole into the hazard well left of the green, and he missed a 10-foot putt to make double bogey. He answered with two birdies and an eagle on the par 5s, reaching all of them in two, and appeared to be sailing along until he pulled his shot out of a bunker on No. 14 into the hazard for a second double bogey, and then found the water on the final hole.

Scott said he would not be thinking about winning overnight, not with Rose the player he is chasing.

Rose is No. 1 in the world, with five victories in the last 14 months and a game that is not showing many weaknesses.

"He's just playing too good," Scott said. "He's the No. 1 player in the world, he's played well for over two years. He's feeling it. He wants to take advantage of all of his good golf and that's why he's running away with this thing."

Scott said the one positive about his position is only one player is front of him.

Rose has a 3-6 record when he has the lead going into the final round on the PGA Tour, and he knows now to take anything for granted, even the way he's playing on a strong South course. Rose and Scott are longtime friends, while Rahm won at Torrey Pines two years ago and has an explosive game, opening this event with a 62.

"I expect Jon and Adam to come out and play well tomorrow, as well as the chasing pack," Rose said. "But one of those guys is capable of something in the mid-60s. Obviously, if I go out and shoot 68, then that's a great round of golf. But a 68 on the South course isn't anyone's to lose. You have to go out and get it. I think it's going to take a good round of golf tomorrow to get this done."

Qatar, UAE in politically-charged Asian Cup semifinal

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Qatar and the United Arab Emirates will meet in a politically-charged semifinal at the Asian Cup after they knocked out the two favorites Friday.

Since June 2017, the UAE has been part of a quartet of nations leading an economic and diplomatic boycott of Qatar. The standoff has impacted Qatar's logistics at the Asian Cup in the UAE but not its performances on the field.

Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host nation, reached the last four of Asia's continental showpiece for the first time by beating two-time champion South Korea 1-0. The UAE defeated title-holder Australia by the same score to set up a meeting with Qatar in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

The other semifinal is on Monday in Al Ain with Japan taking on Iran.

South Korea's exit is good news for Tottenham as forward Son Heung-min can rejoin his injury-hit English Premier League club earlier than expected.

Qatar is the surprise package of the tournament, scoring 12 goals without conceding and notching five straight wins.

"It was a big day for us," coach Felix Sanchez said. "We achieved something that is history for us so I just want to congratulate everyone."

In Abu Dhabi, midfielder Abdelaziz Hatim hit the only goal for Qatar with a left-foot shot from outside the area in the 78th minute. South Korea's best chance came a minute earlier when Kim Jin-su hit the post from a free kick.

In Al Ain, the UAE avenged its 2015 semifinal loss to Australia. Ali Ahmed Mabkhout pounced on a defensive blunder to claim his fourth goal of the tournament and spark wild celebrations at the Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium.

"We said from the beginning that we don't have the ambition to play attractive football," said Mabkhout. "If it comes with a win, that's okay. The important thing for us is to get results. The other things aren't important."

GREGOIRE

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Hee Woo-Anna Kwon game.

In the U16 novice doubles, three pairs secured Final Four tickets last Saturday.

Gillian Villagomez and Cole Chambers showed the way to the semis after eking out a 3-4, 4-0, 5-4 victory over A.J. Hudkins and Brian Kim. Mauryzon Tybaco and Kun Nishimura followed suit after eliminating Bryan Lee and Guine Borja, 4-1, 2-4, 5-3. Alex Park and Junhee Lee made short work of Andy Cho and Junbum Huh, 4-3, 4-0, to clinch the third semis ticket in the division.

The fourth and last Final Four slot will be contested by the pairs of Mark Nam and Mac Guintu and Michael Lee

MIX

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Douglas Schmidt and Jeff Deleon Guerrero played for the runner-up JPdoubleD.

Mix Breed was in Pool B in the elimination round and ended up in first place after defeating four squads. It started its streak with a 21-4 rout of Super Supreme, while the last three victories were against Trey Way, 20-19; Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, 19-10; and 3logy, 21-13. With its 4-0 mark, Mix Breed went on to be paired against Tinian at the start of the playoffs and cruised to a 20-8 win to move into the semifinals.

In the Final Final round, Mix Breed battled Team Ali'i Blue Haus for the last finals berth and withstood the former's late rally to escape with a 15-13 victory. Errol Peredo knocked in a 2-pointer to threaten Mix Breed and Ali'i Blue Haus had a chance to knot the count when the eventual champion lost the ball in the ensuing possession. However, Peredo's desperation trey was off, allowing Mix Breed to keep the win and the last finals ticket.

Earlier in the first Final Four game, JPdoubleD edged 3logy, 13-9, to take the first finals seat. Before going to the finals, JPdoubleD earned a 3-1 mark in the elimination round after beating Team Ali'i Blue Haus, 20-17, The Kuyas, 21-16, and The Game Elite, 15-11. JPdoubleD lone loss in the preliminary was against Tinian (default), while the former topped Fiesta Resort in the quarterfinals, 19-3, to set up a semis date with 3logy's Pete Lizama, E.J. Abejo, Sean Rabasto, and Paulo Rafols.

In the semis, JPdoubleD leaned on its outside shooting to gain control of the game, which became intense in the closing minutes with Jack Lizama and Rafols jostling for position in the paint. 3logy cut the deficit to two, 8-10, down to the final minute of the match after Sean Rabasto's 2-pointer, but Schmidt countered with his own 2-point basket to bring JPdoubleD to the one-game finals.

JPdoubleD met another set of young players in Mix Breed, but this time youth prevailed over experience.

SIS

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Meanwhile, earlier in the girls division game, the Lady Eagles earned a come-from-behind victory over the Lady Geckos, 25-22, 26-24. After securing the close win, GCA maintained its league best 8-1 record, while SIS 1 took their second loss in six games.

Jasmine Phan broke the 24-24 standoff in the second set after landing a clean spike and then delivered the killer blow for the Lady Eagles from the server's area.

"It felt very relieving to close out the game," Phan shared. "I just kept in mind what soach C (Cesar Libut) always says 'play how you always play.'"

The second half of the final set featured seven deadlocks, while GCA faced a 3-6 deficit in the early stages. The Lady Eagles and Lady Geckos went back and fourth as they were too familiar with each other's offensive strengths and tendencies. However, in the end Clerisse Dacumos stepped up for GCA, as she mixed in unexpected tips with setting up jobs for Anna Nunez, Karina Dilse, and Phan.

In the opening set, Nunez hit the clinching serve to complete the comeback win. GCA was lethargic to start the game off, allowing the Lady Geckos to jump out of the gates with a 6-2 lead. After the reeling, the Lady Eagles tightened loose ends up on the defensive side, while Phan delivered back-to-back serves to claim their first lead in the game, 8-7. Then with GCA hanging on to a 20-19 lead, Miku Kimura lobbed three consecutive underhand serves to push her team's advantage to 22-19. The Lady Eagles hung on tight with Kimura and Nunez scoring the needed points to close out the set.

GCA had to work harder in both sets, as SIS 1's frontline weapons—Sally Lai, Malika Miyawaki, and Maury Zon Tybaco—proved to be constant threats to the Lady Eagles' defense.

To teammates, Brady stands alone as he chases 6th ring
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Osaka wins second major, top ranking
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Gregoire eases way to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Anthony Gregoire bagged the first semis berth in the boys U14 singles event in the SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament.

Last year's CNMI National Junior Team member took only two sets to reach the semifinals after sweeping Dylan Mister, 4-0, 4-1, last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. Up next for Gregoire is the winner in the lower draw match between David Kwon and Andrew Chung, who were scheduled to collide yesterday, but their tiff, along with the games in the other divisions were rained-out and had to be reset to next weekend.

Also entered in the boys U14 singles event are Daniel Kang, Daniel Dam, Danny Lee, and Jun Wang.

In other results, Helen Kim also coasted to victory in the opening day of the inaugural tournament. She played in the round-robin girls U14 singles and eased past Irin Chung, 4-1, 4-2. Kim will be gunning for the division crown against Serin Chung, who also needed only two sets to beat her sister, Irin, last Saturday, 4-1, 4-0.

In the girls U12 singles, Savital Sikkel notched the third semis berth in the division after pulling off a three-set victory over Hoo Wang. Sikkel dropped the opening set, 1-4, but stole the win after sweeping the last two, 4-2, 5-2. She was scheduled to challenge Dana Lee in the semifinals last Saturday, but results of their Final Four match were unavailable as off press time. Lee automatically moved into the semis at the upper half of the draw after getting a bye in the opener.

At the lower half, Irin Chung also took a bye and will face in the other semis pairing the winner in the Jin

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Anthony Gregoire makes a return during his and Helen Kim's doubles game against Daniel Kang and Andrew Chung in the SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

Mix Breed takes men's open title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mix Breed's Coby Santos, left, blocks Team Ali'i Blue Haus' Errol Peredo during their semis game in the men's open division of the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mix Breed was unscathed in the Marianas International Basketball League 3x3 Tournament to clinch the men's open division crown in the weekend event played at the Civic Center court and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mix Breed had a 7-0 record in the tournament, capping their perfect mark with a 21-11 victory over JPdoubleD yesterday at the Ada Gym. Matches in the 3x3 tournament were all originally scheduled at the Civic Center, but were moved to the covered court at the Oleai Sports Complex due to rain.

Young guns Dean Blake, Greg Sablan, Coby Santos, and Franko Bondoc suited up for Mix Breed, while veterans Jack Lizama, Dan Barcinas,

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SIS hands GCA first loss

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School halted Grace Christian Academy's streak in the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Thursday at the Geckos' court in As Lito.

SIS came out on top of the neck-and-neck game, 25-23, 25-22, to hand the Eagles their first loss of the season after going 4-0. Besides putting a blemish on GCA's record, the Geckos also snapped their two-game losing skid to improve to a 3-2 mark.

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan leaps for a spike during their game against Saipan International School 1 in the CCOPSA volleyball league last Thursday at the latter's court in As Lito.